Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Iowa - 2011

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the land
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

What is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary USDA program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by:

1. undertaking additional conservation activities and
2. improving and maintaining **existing** conservation systems.

CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Protecting Resources

CSP addresses the following **resource concerns**:

- soil quality
- soil erosion
- water quality
- water quantity
- air quality
- plant resources
- animal resources
- energy

Who is eligible?

CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or crops produced.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes. They must:

- be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract and be able to produce records documenting that control;
- be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and adjusted gross income provisions; and
- include the eligible land in their entire agricultural or forestry operation.

What are the benefits?

CSP pays participants for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

It provides two possible types of payments:

1. An **annual payment** is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices.
2. A **supplemental payment** is available to participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Payments

Through **five-year contracts**, NRCS makes payments after October 1 for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30).

- **Payment Limit.** A person or legal entity may have more than one CSP contract, but for all CSP contracts combined, may not receive more than $40,000 in any year or more than $200,000 during any five-year period.
- **Contract Limit.** The contract limit is the same as the payment limit except in the case of joint operations, for which the contract limit is $80,000 per fiscal year and $400,000 over the term of the contract period.

Payment limits and contract limits do not apply in the case of federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations.

Participants who are historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers, beginning farmers, or socially disadvantaged farmers) may receive a minimum payment of $1,000 if the contract amount in any given year is less than that amount.

Application: What You Need

- » Pre-Screening Tool
- » Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT)
- » Signed CSP Application
- » Completed Direct Deposit Form
- » Completed Control of Land Form

CSP Application Process

Signing Up

NRCS makes CSP available through continuous sign-up, with announced cut-off dates for ranking and funding applications.

Application Rankings

Applications are evaluated and ranked. In the ranking process, producers get credit for:

- » conservation measures they have already implemented, and
- » for new measures they agree to add. (Agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land applications are ranked separately.)

Self-Screening

Potential applicants are encouraged to determine whether CSP is right for them by completing the self-screening checklist and reviewing the CSP Conservation Activity List to identify new conservation activities they might install.

Because some conservation enhancements work better when implemented as a group, the activity list identifies enhancement "bundles" that receive both higher rankings and higher payments. Both the checklist and the activity list are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp.

If an applicant is preapproved for funding, NRCS requests the applicant's conservation activity records and conducts on-site field verification to ensure that the information provided is accurate. Once the information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract.

More Information

For more information about CSP, visit your local NRCS office located at USDA Service Centers in every Iowa county. CSP information is also available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp or www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

USDA NRCS
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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Bill 2008

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**** Now available nationwide *** Continuous sign-up****

CSP: RECOGNIZING EXCELLENT STEWARDS – DELIVERING VALUABLE NEW CONSERVATION

CSP encourages agricultural and forest producers to undertake additional conservation activities and improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities.

Producer Self-Screening Checklist

Is CSP right for you?

☐ Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?

☐ Do you have records of your farming activities and are you willing to continue maintaining records to document your conservation activities? Records will be used during NRCS field visits to verify the accuracy of application information before contracts are approved.

☐ Are you ready to enter into a 5 year contract requiring you to apply additional conservation activities and to improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities?

*If you answered **"yes"** to these questions, complete the CSP Self-Screening Checklist items below.*

Self-Screening Checklist

To participate in CSP, an applicant must meet:

- **Applicant Eligibility**
- **Land Eligibility**
- **Stewardship Threshold Requirement**

Applicant Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met)*

☐ Operator of record in Farm Service Agency (FSA) record system unless an exception is granted

☐ Will control the land for the term of the contract (5 years)

☐ In compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions

☐ In compliance with average adjusted gross income provisions. If the average adjusted gross nonfarm income is greater than $1 million, the person or legal entity is not eligible unless 66.66 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income is attributable to farming activities.

Land Eligibility Requirements *(all requirements must be met)*

☐ Private/Tribal agricultural land or nonindustrial private forest land

- Must include all land in your operation that you will control for the term of the contract – if you don't have control of land for the contract period, it's not part of your operation
- Applicant elects whether to include the nonindustrial private forest land component
- Land ineligible for CSP includes land enrolled in CRP, WRP, GRP, Conservation Security Program, public land, and land used for crop production that was not planted or considered planted 4 of 6 years prior to June 2008

Stewardship Threshold Requirement

If you can check two or more of the statements for each land use you have in your farming operation, you may be a good candidate for CSP.

Cropland:

☐ Fields are managed with few signs of erosion or soil being carried to field edges or water bodies.

☐ Crop residues remain on fields after harvest, or cover crops are planted.

☐ Grass or woody buffer areas intercept field runoff prior to entering streams, ditches, lakes, etc.

☐ Nutrients are applied according to land grant university recommendations.

☐ Areas on your farm are actively managed for wildlife habitat.

☐ If you irrigate your cropland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Pastureland:

☐ Pastures show few signs of erosion from livestock trails, feeding areas and watering areas.

☐ There is a healthy stand of grass and enough forage for your livestock.

☐ Livestock access to streams, ponds and lakes, is managed.

☐ Pastures or areas adjacent to your pastures are actively managed for wildlife habitat.

☐ If you irrigate your pastureland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

Rangeland:

☐ Rangeland shows few signs of erosion from livestock trails, feeding areas and watering areas.

☐ There is a healthy stand of vegetation and enough forage for your livestock.

☐ Livestock access to streams, ponds, and lakes, is managed.

☐ Rangeland is actively managed for wildlife habitat.

Nonindustrial private forest land:

Nonindustrial private forest land" is rural land with existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees. Applicants elect whether or not to submit nonindustrial private forest land for funding consideration. Nonindustrial private forest land will be ranked separately for funding approval against other nonindustrial private forestland applicants.

 Forest/woodland is “green certified” by one of the following recognized programs: Tree Farm System, Green Tag, Smart Wood, Forest Stewardship Council, or Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

 One or more improvements have been made to your forest/woodland in the past 10 years according to a written forest management or stewardship plan that was prepared with assistance from a certified/licensed natural resource professional. Examples of improvements may include prescribe thinning, tree planting, establishing a firebreak, etc.

 There is no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, roads, skid trails and landings.

 Native trees are appropriately stocked on the property (except temporarily for areas being reforested) and wildfire risk (in wildfire-prone areas) is minimized by strategically placed narrow firebreaks and wider fuel breaks (which may include roads, streams, riparian areas, and other areas managed to slow fire spread).

Other Land:

These areas are within the boundaries of your farming operation. They include incidental areas that are not in agricultural production, or developed areas on the farm or ranch such as farm headquarters, ranch sites, barnyards, feedlots, manure storage facilities, machinery storage areas, and material handling facilities. All these areas must meet the following condition for stewardship eligibility to be met.

 Other lands do not have readily observable erosion or other obvious resource concerns such as gullies, manure runoff or pesticide runoff.

Payments

Payments will be made for your operation’s conservation performance estimated by the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). Your conservation performance is unique for your operation based on your existing and proposed conservation activities – the higher your operation’s performance, the higher your payment.

Payment types:

- Annual payments for additional and existing conservation performance estimated by the CMT by land use and;
- Supplemental payment for the adoption of a resource conserving crop rotation applicable only to cropland.

If you think you meet applicant and land eligibility, the stewardship threshold requirement, and you are interested in CSP, contact your local NRCS office for the next step in the application process.

If you are not currently eligible for CSP, NRCS can assist you with your conservation needs. Contact your local NRCS office or visit our Web site at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

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CSP Application Checklist

Please bring the following items to your CSP interview:

_____ Completed and signed CSP Application (NRCS-CPA-1200)

_____ Completed and signed Direct Deposit form (Standard Form 1199A)

_____ Completed Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) Questionnaire

_____ Copy of Entity papers indicating specifically who has signature authority for entity applicants. (Underline appropriate sentences.)

_____ Power of Attorney (POA) to show signature authority for entities or individuals. (FSA 211 form may be used.)

_____ Producer Farm Data Report and 156EZ

_____ Certification maps for the current crop year for all land to be enrolled in CSP

_____ Authorization to Release Information form

_____ List of enhancements you are considering

Notes

1. *The operator/applicant must be eligible at FSA for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), Wetland, and Highly Erodible and Land Conservation (HELC) before applying for a CSP contract.*
2. *A Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering Systems (DUNS) Number is required for all applicants that are entities.*

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Conservation Measurement Tool Questions & Activities List

The next set of forms is part of the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). These questions are to be answered by you based on your current farming practices. Be honest, because what you record here will become part of your contract to maintain for the life of the contract.

The first two pages "Conservation Measurement Tool Ag Land – General Inventory" needs to be completed with your entire farming operation in mind.

The next two pages "Conservation Measurement Tool Water Bodies/Water Courses" needs to be completed trying to describe the average condition on your farm.

The next six pages, "Cropland CMT Questions," will only be completed if you have cropland in your operation. These questions may need to be answered more than once, based on your rotations and management systems. For example: If all of your cropland is in a corn-soybean rotation using no-till and part is tilled, this question will need to be answered twice. (Answer once for the tilled area and again for the no-till area.) Another example may be that part of your farm is in a corn-soybean rotation and another part is continuous corn; this form would need to be completed twice for each rotation. If you use a long-term rotation with grass on part of your farm, these questions need to be answered for the land following that rotation.

You have been provided one copy of this form, if more are needed this can be copied or additional forms are available at your NRCS office.

The next four pages, "Conservation Measurement Tool Pastureland," will only need to be completed if you have pasture in your operation. If you have more than one management system on your farm for pasture these questions will need to be answered for each system.

Congratulations! You have now completed the CMT Tool documenting your current operation. The next step is to identify some activities that you are not currently doing, that you are willing to add to your program. The next three pages, "CSP – Conservation Activity List," have the most common enhancements used in Iowa. A complete list of enhancements is available at your NRCS office or can be downloaded at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

The far righthand column and the next column to the left in this chart tell you what the enhancements are, and give a brief description. The third and fourth columns tell you if the enhancement can be used in cropland or in pastures. If you have cropland, you must choose at least one cropland enhancement. If you have pasture, you must choose at least one enhancement to implement into your pasture system.

Behind the "CSP Conservation Activities List" is a set of job sheets that match each of the Enhancements on the Activities List that tell you exactly what is expected of you to successfully install each enhancement. Once you have identified your enhancements this section is complete.

Conservation Measurement Tool

Ag Land - General Inventory

Date:
Prepared By:
Enter Producer Name:
Enter Farm/Tract Number:
Enter State:

1 Other Lands: These areas are within the bounds of your operation. They include incidental areas that are not in agricultural production, or developed areas on the farm or ranch such as farm headquarters, ranch sites, barnyards, feedlots, manure storage facilities, machinery storage areas, and material handling facilities. All these areas must meet the following condition for stewardship eligibility to be met.

Do you have any 'Other Lands' that have any readily observable erosion or other obvious resource concerns such as gullies, manure runoff or pesticide runoff?

☐ Yes
☐ No

2 Do you have any water bodies (ponds, lakes, or wetlands) or water courses (streams, rivers or ditches) on the indicated land use?

Cropland	☐ Yes
Pastureland	☐ Yes
Rangeland	☐ Yes

3 Do you have unpaved farm roads used by farm vehicles (does not include unpaved county roads or other unpaved public roads) or other unpaved areas such as feedlots or material handling areas **that frequently result in significant dust generation, reducing visibility along the road or over the unpaved area for extended periods? If yes, check any of the following methods you regularly use to control dust.**

☐ Yes
☐ No

Regularly spraying water to reduce the dust	☐ Yes
Apply biodegradable oils to reduce the dust	☐ Yes
Gravel surfacing	☐ Yes
Apply other environmentally benign dust control chemicals	☐ Yes

4 Identify each energy conservation reduction method used on your farm:

Have you replaced electric motors or engines on your farm with high efficiency models in the last 3 years?	☐ Yes
Do you use alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuels, green energy) to replace fossil fuel energy uses on your farm?	☐ Yes
Have you improved the efficiency of heating, cooling or drying operations on your farm in the last 3 years?	☐ Yes
Have you conducted an energy audit on your farm and are now implementing the energy audit actions?	☐ Yes
Have you performed a pumping plant evaluation during the last 3 years and implemented the recommendations?	☐ Yes

Conservation Measurement Tool

Ag Land -
Water Bodies/Water Courses
Existing Activity Conservation Performance

1	**Do you have any WATER BODIES (lakes, ponds or wetlands) on or adjacent to your property?** Wetlands farmed under natural conditions or farmed wetlands do not fit under this category.	☐ Yes ☐ No
2	**Consider all the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property. What percentage of the total boundary of these areas has at least a 33-foot wide zone of diverse vegetation that is native to the site or introduced species that have become naturalized between the edge of the waterbody and adjacent land? This could be an established filter strip or other riparian buffer.**	
	a) less than 25%	☐
	b) 25% to 50%	☐
	c) 51% to 75%	☐
	d) more than 75%	☐
3	**Does upland runoff (surface or groundwater) empty directly—without filtration through a vegetated buffer—into any of the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your property?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
4	**Do you have any WATER COURSES (ditches, sinkholes, intermittent or perennial streams, or rivers) on or adjacent to your property?** If "NO", skip to Question 7.	☐ Yes ☐ No
5	**Do you pump (directly or indirectly) or divert water from a river or stream? If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
	a) Water withdrawal completely dewaters stream habitat.	☐
	b) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are unscreened (for aquatic animals).	☐
	c) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are screened (for aquatic animals).	☐
6	**Do you have instream structures on your property, such as diversion dams, road crossings (bridges or culverts), low-water crossings, and pumping stations. If "YES", select appropriate choice below.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
	a) Structure blocks aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream during all or part of the year.	☐
	b) Structure could block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream part or all of the year.	☐
	c) Structure does not block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream at any time of the year.	☐

7 **Consider all water courses on your property, select the choice below which best describes 90% of their total length. These areas could be established filter strips or other riparian buffers**.

a) The water course has little or no vegetated riparian area. Agricultural activities take place adjacent to the streambank within the state specified minimum distance for a water quality buffer. ☐

b) The water course is well vegetated. The width of the vegetation meets state minimum buffer width for water quality protection. ☐

c) The water course is well vegetated. The width exceeds state minimum buffer width for water quality protection AND is at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel (up to a maximum of 100' for large streams). ☐

8 **Consider all water courses on your property and select the choice below which best describes your situation. Select the condition that best describes 90% of the total length of the water courses on your property.**

a) Existing vegetation is dominated by a single species and is primarily non-native and may include invasive species. ☐

b) Existing vegetation is diverse and is primarily non-native to the site. Invasive species are not present. ☐

c) Existing vegetation is diverse and is predominately native to the site. ☐

9 **Do you maintain a minimum setback of 33 feet or greater when applying manure or pesticides** from all intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes? Spot spraying within the setback is permitted according to the pesticide label. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cropland CMT Questions

Answer 1 set of questions for each management area in your operation. Areas with the same crop rotation and tillage can be grouped together, even if they are not in the same crop in the same year.
Examples:
2 tracts with 1 in corn and 1 in bean, both using a corn/bean rotation with the same tillage is 1 set of questions
2 tracts with 1 on a corn on corn rotation and the other using a corn/bean rotation is 2 sets of questions.

Rotation and Adjacent Habitat Information

1	Enter the length of your rotation or management system in "years". Example: A corn, soybean rotation = 2. A continuous Corn rotation = 1.	

2	Enter the number of your harvested crops that are included in each of the categories below (a-e). Do not include cover. Example: For a corn and soybean rotation, enter 1 in 2c (for beans) and 1 in 2d (for corn).	
	a) bare fallow crop periods (both chemical and tilled fallow), idle bare fields, or harvested sod.	
	b) Asparagus, Beans dry edible, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Strawberries, Vegetables, or similar crops.	
	c) Buckwheat, Canola, Corn or sorghum silage, Cotton, Flaxseed, Safflower, **Soybeans**, or similar crops.	
	d) **Corn Grain**/Popcorn, Cranberries, Rice, Small Grains, Sorghum, or similar crops.	
	e) Grass Hay/Seed, Legume Hay /Seed, or similar herbaceous perennial crops.	

3	Enter the number of times during your rotation that you plant a cover crop that you do not harvest. For a permanent crop enter the percentage (expressed as a decimal number) of the time you maintain cover between the row.	

4	Enter the number of different crop species/types in your rotation or management system, including different types of cover crops. A corn, soybeans rotation would be 2 A continuous corn rotation would be 1 A corn, soybean rotation with an alfalfa cover crop on both the corn and bean = 3.	

5	Do you have cropland acres that you flood during the winter for wetland wildlife?	Yes/No

6	Does your rotation include hay or other grass or legume cover? If No go to 7	Yes/No
6.1	How many years of hay or other perennial(s) do you have in your rotation? – include the establishment year.	
6.2	From the choices below (a-d) select the one that best describes the mix of plants you are growing for hay.	
	a) Hay land is composed of species from List B. (Crown Vetch, Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Reed Canary Grass, Sudan Grass, Sweet Clover, Fescue, Timothy)	
	b) Hayland is composed of species from List B plus at least one species from List A. (Big Bluestem, Brome with legume, Indian Grass, Little Bluestem, Orchard Grass with legumes, Switchgrass)	
	c) Hayland is composed of a mixture of 2 species from List A.	
	d) Hayland is composed of 3 or more species from List A.	
6.3	From the choices below (a-f) select the one that best describes your schedule for mowing hay.	
	a) The entire field is cut during the nesting season. May 15 - Aug 1	
	b) Not more than half of the field is cut during the nesting season using wildlife friendly techniques (e.g., minimum mowing height, flushing bars, mowing toward the outside of the field, mow only during daylight).	
	c) Hay cut after July 12.	
	d) Hay cut not more than once per year and is cut after July 12 using wildlife-friendly harvest techniques.	
	e) Hay cut not more than once per year and is cut after the nesting season.	
	f) Hay cut occasionally, but not each year and is cut before or after the nesting season using wildlife-friendly harvest techniques.	

7	Do you have any areas such as field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, vegetated ditches, CRP land, native vegetated communities, center pivot corners or other similar areas that provide wildlife habitat within or adjacent to your cropland? You must own or control these areas.	Yes/No If NO go to 8
7.1	From the choices below (a-c) select the answer that best describes the plants growing on these areas within or adjacent to the crop/hay field.	
	a) Less than 33% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover to wildlife, pollinators, and beneficial insects.	
	b) 33-67% vegetation is native or introduced species that provide food and cover to wildlife, pollinators, and beneficial insects.	
	c) More than 67% is native or introduced species that provide food and cover to wildlife, pollinators, and beneficial insects.	
7.2	From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the AMOUNT of suitable wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the crop/hay field.	
	a) Habitat is less than 1% of the crop/hay field.	
	b) Habitat is between 1% and 5% of the crop/hay field.	
	c) Habitat is between 6% and 10% of the crop/hay field.	
	d) Habitat is more than 10% of the crop/hay field.	
7.3	From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the WIDTH of wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the crop/hay field (must be at least 0.1 acre or more)	
	a) less than 30 feet wide	
	b) 30 to 75 feet wide	
	c) 76 to 120 feet wide	
	d) more than 120 feet wide	
7.4	How far is the wildlife habitat from the center of the crop/hay field?	
	a) Average distance from the center of the field to the habitat is more than 1320 feet	
	b) Average distance from the center of the field to the habitat is 660 to 1320 feet	
	c) Average distance from the center of the field to the habitat is 330 to 660 feet	
	d) Average distance from the center of the field to the habitat is less than 330 feet	

8	Do you purposely leave unharvested crops in the field for wildlife food/cover on an annual basis?	Yes/ No
	Choose the answer below (a-d) that best describes how much you leave.	
	a) 1/4 – 1 acre of food plot or unharvested grain per 40 acres of cropland (minimum 30 feet wide and next to noncrop cover).	
	b) > 1 acre of food plot or unharvested grain per 40 acres of cropland (minimum 30 feet wide and next to noncrop cover).	

Water Conservation and Residue Management

9	Before field operations, do you check soil moisture by methods such as moisture-by-feel or more sophisticated methods to minimize soil compaction?	Yes/ No

10	Do you consistently use controlled traffic methods (either GPS or manual methods) to minimize soil compaction?	Yes/ No

11	Answer each of the questions below (a-f) about your residue management and/or tillage system:	
	a) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage, deeper than 4 inches that involves soil inversion and lifting (such as plows or deep disking).	
	b) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage, deeper than 4 inches that involves soil fracturing and lifting (such as subsoilers, rippers, or paraplows).	
	c) Enter the number of crops in your rotation that have full width tillage performed after harvest and leaves more than 30% residue cover (tillage that is less than four inches deep such as a light disk or field cultivator). Does not include seedbed preparation immediately prior to planting a cover crop.	
	d) Enter the number of crops in your rotation for which you use conservation tillage and maintain at least 30% soil cover after planting (includes mulch tillage). This includes crop residues, cover crops, composts or other natural mulch.	
	e) Enter the number of crops in your rotation using a no till/strip till system with at least 50% residue cover after planting.	
	f) Enter the number of crops in your rotation for which you use a no till/strip till system that maintains at least 75% residue cover after planting. For systems using perennials with no tillage after year of establishment, include the number of years of perennials.	
12	From the choices below (a-e) select the answer that best describes the average condition of crop residues left in the field during the winter, for wildlife cover. If none of these apply, select none. Corn/soybean rotation with corn stalks tilled in the fall and soybean stubble left undisturbed = A	
	a) Fall tillage, undisturbed soybean residue or any kind of harvested silage	
	b) Crop residue chopped or shredded with no soil disturbance or grasses/legumes are included in the rotation and cover the field during winter	
	c) Crop residues are gleaned by livestock but no mechanical disturbance of residue or soils	
	d) Crop residue, grain stubble, hay/forage crop, or cover crop left standing overwinter, height is less than 8 inches	
	e) Crop residue, grain stubble, hay/forage crop, or cover crop left standing overwinter, height is over 8 inches	

Erosion & Runoff Information

13	Is your crop or hayland managed so there are no signs of erosion or gullies after a heavy rainfall, significant snowmelt, or irrigation?	Yes/No

14	Select any of the following practices that are applied on your crop or hayland acres:	
	contour farming (330)	
	contour orchard or other fruit area (331)	
	contour strip cropping (585)	
	windbreaks (380)	
	terraces (600)	
	diversions (362)	
	hillside ditch (423)	
	grassed waterways (412)	
	grade stabilization structure (410)	
	contour buffer strips (332)	
	herbaceous wind barriers (603)	
	cross wind trap strips (589C)	

Pest Management Information

15	Do you apply any pesticides on your crop or hayland acres?	Yes/No If No go to 16
15.1	From the questions below select the choice (a-c) that best describes how you manage pests on your crop or hayland acres.	
	a) Pesticides are applied without documenting the pest population densities and locations.	
	b) Some components of an IPM system are utilized, such as using pest-free seeds and transplants, cleaning tillage and harvesting equipment between fields, using pest-resistant varieties, crop rotation, trap crops, pest scouting, biological pest controls, spot spraying, banding, directed spraying, manual removal, and scheduling irrigation to avoid disease development.	
	c) A full IPM system is utilized with scouting and economic thresholds to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk, utilizing pest suppression techniques (including pesticide applications) only after monitoring (including pest scouting) verifies that a pest population has reached an economic threshold.	
15.2	Do you use an environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar) to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?	Yes/No

Nutrient Management Information

16	Do you apply any fertilizers or manure on your crop or hayland acres?	Yes/No If No Finished
16.1	Do you apply manure, compost, or other organic amendment to meet (but not exceed) crop nutrient needs?	Yes/No
16.2	Do you soil test (or tissue test for orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops) on all crop and hayland fields at least once every 5 years AND do you use the test results to plan your nutrient application rates?	Yes/No
16.3	Do you apply fertilizers and manures based on established or realistic crop yields from crop records and do you give appropriate credit for nutrients from manure, cover crops, irrigation water, previous crops, or organic matter, as applicable, by using analysis or book values for these sources to plan nutrient application rates and timing?	Yes/No
16.4	Select all that apply when you apply fertilizer or manure.	
	a) incorporate (within 24 hours) or inject manure or fertilizer at least 2 inches deep	
	b) precision agriculture techniques are used in the application of fertilizer and manure.	
	c) apply on 80% residue cover or 80% crop canopy.	
16.5	From choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes when you apply the majority of nutrients.	
	a) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied more than one month prior to planting or more than one month prior to “greenup” of perennial crops.	
	b) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied within one month prior to planting or within one month prior to “greenup” for perennial crops.	
	c) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied after crop emergence or after annual growth begins (greenup) for perennial crops.	
	d) Most of the manure or fertilizer is applied as a split application (pre-plant & post plant), according to soil tests or crop growth stages. Application split must be at least 50% post emergence.	

Conservation Measurement Tool

Pastureland Existing Activity Conservation Performance

Enter Pasture Species Mix Name Below	Enter Mixture Acres Below

1	**Do you have an adequate grazing and roughage supply to meet forage demands of livestock and wildlife?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
2	**SELECT ONE (a-c) Grazing Management level BELOW**	
	a) Forages are grazed below established minimum grazing heights.	☐
	b) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on 50% or more of the acres.	☐
	c) Forages are grazed at or above established minimum grazing heights. Spot grazing occurs on less than 50% of the acres.	☐
3	**From the choices below (a-d) select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture.** **FROM STATE populated look up table**	
	a) One dominant perennial forage species.	☐
	b) Two or more dominant forage species all from one functional group.	☐
	c) Two or more dominant forage species representing two functional groups.	☐
	d) Three or more dominant forage species representing at least two functional groups with at least one being a legume.	☐
4	**From the choices below (a-d) select the one that best describes the mix of plants growing in your pasture.** **FROM STATE populated look up table**	
	a) Pasture vegetation is composed of **species from List B.**	☐
	b) Pasture vegetation is predominantly **species from List B** but **one or more species from List A** makes up **at least 30%** of the stand.	☐
	c) Pasture vegetation is composed of **1 or 2 species from List A**. that make up **at least 60%** of the stand.	☐
	d) Pasture vegetation is composed of **3 or more species from List A** that make up **at least 60%** of the stand.	☐
5	**Do you have any areas such as field borders, filter strips, buffers, odd areas, windbreaks, wetlands, brushy draws, hedgerows, seeps, shallow water areas, riparian areas, center pivot corners, CRP land, or other similar areas** that provide wildlife habitat within or adjacent to your pasture? You must own or control these areas. **If "NO", skip to Question 6.**	☐ Yes ☐ No

5.1	**From the choices below (a-c) select the answer that best describes the plants growing on these areas within or adjacent to the pasture**.	
	a) Less than 33% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provided food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects	☐
	b) 33-67% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provided food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects	☐
	c) More than 67% of the vegetation is native or introduced species that provided food and cover for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects	☐
5.2	**From the choices below select the answer that best describes the AMOUNT of suitable wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture.**	☐
	a) Habitat less than **1%** of the pasture.	☐
	b) Habitat is between **1% and 5%** of the pasture.	☐
	c) Habitat is between **6% and 10%** of the pasture.	☐
	d) Habitat more than **10%** of the pasture.	☐
5.3	**From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the WIDTH of wildlife habitat within or adjacent to the pasture** (must be at least 0.1 acre or more)	
	a) less than 30 feet wide	☐
	b) 30 to 75 feet wide	☐
	c) 76 to 120 feet wide	☐
	d) more than 120 feet wide	☐
5.4	**How far is the wildlife habitat from the center of the pasture?**	
	a) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is **more than 1320 feet**	☐
	b) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is **660 to 1320 feet**	☐
	c) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is **330 to 660 feet**	☐
	d) Average distance from the center of the pasture to the habitat is less than **330 feet**	☐

Water Bodies, Erosion, & Runoff Information

6	**Do you manage access roads, stock trails and other critical areas to limit surface water runoff and control accelerated soil erosion? Gully erosion is stabilized.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
7	**Are livestock concentration areas such as feeding, watering and mineral areas located away from water bodies or have buffers to protect the water bodies from unfiltered runoff? If there are no water bodies or water courses on or adjacent to your pastureland, select Yes.**	☐ Yes ☐ No

Pest Management Information

8	**Do you apply any pesticides on your pastureland acres?** **If "NO", skip to Question 9.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
8.1	**Select the choice (a-c) below that best describes how you manage pests on your pasture.**	
	a) Pesticides are applied **without using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system**.	☐
	b) Some components of an IPM system are utilized, such as using pest-free seeds and transplants, feeding hay without any noxious weed seeds, scheduling irrigation to avoid situations conducive to disease development, using pest-resistant varieties, spot spraying, individual plant treatment, banding, directed spraying, hand hoeing, select non-invasive forage species, pest scouting, and biological pest controls.	☐
	c) A **full IPM system is utilized** with scouting and economic thresholds to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk, utilizing pest suppression techniques (including pesticide applications) only after monitoring (including pest scouting) verifies that a pest population has reached an economic threshold.	☐
8.2	Do you use an **environmental risk screening tool (such as WIN-PST or similar)** to reduce pesticide risk to soil and water resources?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Nutrient Management Information

9	**Do you apply fertilizers or manure on your pastureland?** **If "NO", skip to question 10.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
9.1	**Do you soil test on your pastureland fields at least once every 5 years** AND **do you use the test results to plan your nutrient application rates?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
9.2	**Do you apply fertilizers and manures based on established or realistic forage yields from forage records and do you give appropriate credit for nutrients** from manure, irrigation water, supplemental feed, or organic matter, as applicable, by using analysis or book values for these sources to plan nutrient application rates and timing?	☐ Yes ☐ No
9.3	**Select all that apply to your methods of application of fertilizer or manure.**	
	a) inject manure or fertilizer at least 2 inches deep	☐
	b) precision agriculture techniques are used in the application of fertilizer and manure.	☐
	c) apply on 80% surface cover with at least the minimum grazing heights.	☐
9.4	**From choices below (a-b) select the answer that best describes when you apply the majority of nutrients.**	
	a) Most of the fertilizer or manure is applied at the beginning of the growing season as a top-dress.	☐
	b) Most of the fertilizer or manure is split applied; usually an initial application of 50% or less at the start of the growing season and then applied as needed after one or more grazing events during the year except following the last one of the growing season.	☐

Salinity, Sodicity, and Irrigation Management

10	**Do you have any Salinity or Sodicity (alkaline soils or seeps) concerns on your pastureland? If "NO", skip to Question 11.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
10.1	**Do you manage saline seeps discharge areas to maintain and/or improve existing salt tolerant vegetation?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
10.2	**Do you manage nutrient application (type and rate) and irrigation based on your soil and irrigation water properties for your saline or sodic soils?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
11	**Do you use irrigation on your pastureland? If "YES", answer Questions 11.1 - 11.3.**	☐ Yes ☐ No
11.1	**Do you measure the amount of water you use to irrigate?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
11.2	**Do you schedule your irrigations with some form of soil moisture or evapotranspiration monitoring?**	☐ Yes ☐ No
11.3	**Has your system been tested to measure distribution uniformity and changes made based on the results of the tests?**	☐ Yes ☐ No

CSP - Conservation Activity List
Most Common Iowa Activities

Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Enhancement Name	Enhancement Criteria
	AIR04	Crop				Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvant to reduce pesticide drift	
	AIR07	Crop				CPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to intended targets, which can reduce the total amount of chemical applied, and reduces the potential for chemical drift.
	ANM04	Crop	Pasture			Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing filter strips to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider filter strips provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit in stream habitats.
	ANIM07	Crop	Pasture			Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing field borders to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider field borders provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals.
	ANM08	Crop	Pasture			Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat	Improve plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.

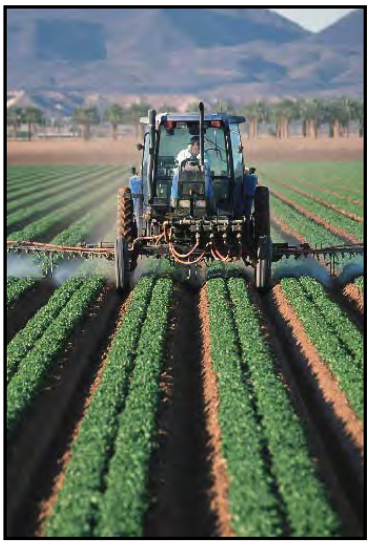
CSP - Conservation Activity List
Most Common Iowa Activities

	ANM10	Crop				Harvest hay in manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape	Harvest hay using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. Includes times haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hay land during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting a fawning for the following year, and applying haying techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.
	ANM18		Pasture	Range	Forest	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape	Retrofit existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for escape of wildlife that become trapped while trying to drink.
	PLT01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Establish pollinator habitat	Establish nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.
	PLT02		Pasture	Range	Forest	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management	Monitor key grazing areas on pastureland and rangeland to determine if current grazing management meets management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture.
	PLT06	Crop	Pasture			Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat	Renovate a windbreak, shelter belt, or hedgerow to add diversity for wildlife habitat. Replace plants threatened by invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer.
	PLT10		Pasture	Range		Intensive Management of Rotational Grazing	The intensive management of livestock and grazing forages to improve vegetation quality in the pasture and the health of livestock.
	SOE01	Crop				Continuous no till with high residue	Utilize continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed in the rotation in combination with high and low residue producing crops or cover crops to maintain a high level of residue cover through critical erosion periods.

CSP - Conservation Activity List
Most Common Iowa Activities

	SQL04	Crop				Use of Cover Crop Mixes	Use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops.
	WQL03		Pasture	Range	Forest	Rotation of supplement and feeding areas	Rotation of Supplementation and Feeding Areas to manage areas of concentrated livestock use to improve livestock distribution and reduce localized areas of disturbances.
	WQL04	Crop				Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management	Use plant tissue tests to adjust nitrogen application rates.
	WQL06	Crop				Apply controlled release nitrogen fertilizer	Apply only slow-release or controlled release formulations of nitrogen fertilizer.
	WQL07	Crop	Pasture			Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green up	Apply 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence.
	WQL10	Crop				Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen	Plant a cover crop that will scavenge nitrogen left in the soil after the harvest of a previous crop.
	WQL11	Crop	Pasture			Precision application technology to apply nutrients	Use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit the variation in site-specific conditions found within fields.
	WQL12		Pasture	Range	Forest	Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses	Install structures or implement grazing management actions that assist in managing livestock access to water bodies and water courses.

Air Quality Enhancement Activity – AIR04 – Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift



Enhancement Description
Use drift reduction technologies to reduce the drift of agricultural chemicals away from the intended target when spraying.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland

Benefits
Drift reduction will reduce damage to non-target desirable plants and animal habitats and reduce pollution of water bodies. Reducing chemical drift will help to reduce both particulate matter (liquid droplets) in the air and the production of volatile organic compounds, which are an integral part of the formation of ozone, a pollutant in the lower atmosphere. Reduced chemical drift will improve water quality by minimizing the delivery of chemical compounds through the air to water bodies. This enhancement assumes all chemical applications are done according to label directions.

Criteria
Implementation of this enhancement to reduce spray drift of agricultural chemicals requires the use of one or more of the following activities:

1. Use drift reduction nozzles, drops, shielding, pressure adjustment, electrostatic spray technology, or re-circulating spray technology to minimize drift of applied chemical away from targeted area while maintaining required efficacy of pesticide application. See Ozken, H.E. in the references for more information on drift reduction nozzles.
2. Reduce sprayer pressures per the nozzle criteria to produce larger spray droplets, which have a lower tendency to drift. Do not exceed 40-45 psi sprayer pressure.
3. Reduce boom height to the minimum amount allowable (where full coverage is achieved just above the top of the plant canopy) to achieve coverage and minimize the amount of time droplets are in the air before contacting plant or soil surfaces
4. Use spray adjuvants approved for use with the specific pesticide being applied to reduce evaporation of airborne spray droplets, keeping droplets larger so they will settle more quickly onto the targeted plants and soil. See Witt, J.M. for more information on types of spray adjuvant.

Documentation Requirements

1. Documentation for each year of this enhancement describing these items, where applicable:
    a. Written documentation for the type of drift reduction technology used
    b. Acres treated

References

Ozken, H.E. New Nozzles for Spray Drift Reduction. Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet AEX 523-98. http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0523.html

Witt, J. M. Agricultural Spray Adjuvants. Oregon State University Extension. http://psep.cce.cornell.edu/facts-slides-self/facts/gen-peapp-adjuvants.aspx

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

This activity may NOT be used with the following enhancements: SOE03, WQL01, WQL19, WQL20, and WQL21.

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

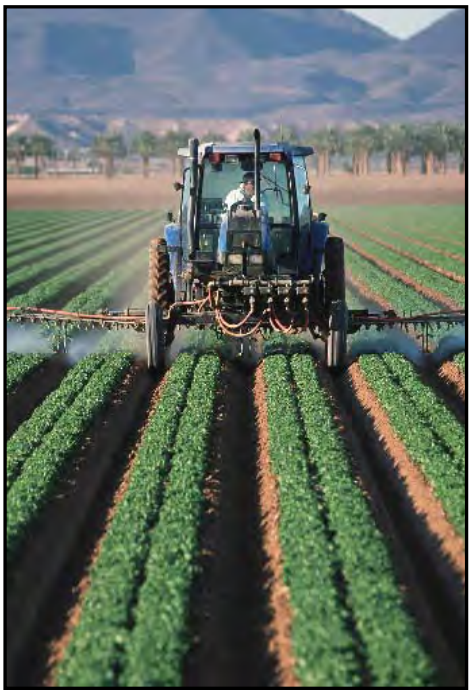
_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

Include written documentation for each treatment area and year of this enhancement including:

____ A full description of drift reducing technology used, to include (as appropriate):
- Nozzle type and expected droplet size
- Operating pressure of sprayer
- Adjuvant and pesticide name
- Certification that adjuvant used is a “drift control agent”.
- Adjustments to boom height (how far above crop or ground is boom now and how far above ground was boom prior to applying enhancement).

____ A Map showing where the activities were applied including treatment acreage

Air Quality Enhancement Activity – AIR07 – GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology



Enhancement Description
Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to their intended targets.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits
These activities will provide improvements in water and air quality by reducing the total amount of chemical applied, and reducing the potential for airborne chemical drift when agricultural chemicals are applied to crop and pasture land. This enhancement can be used only if chemical applications are done according to label directions. Reducing chemical drift will help to reduce both particulate matter (liquid droplets) in the air and the production of volatile organic compounds, which are an integral part of production of ozone, a pollutant in the lower atmosphere. Reduced chemical drift will improve water quality by minimizing the delivery of chemical compounds through the air to water bodies.

Criteria
The implementation of this enhancement for precision pesticide application technology to reduce spray drift and the total amount of pesticide applied requires the use of GPS data loggers that document site-specific compliance with all label requirements for drift mitigation, and additionally, one or more of the following techniques:

1. Precision guidance systems that reduce ground or aerial spray overlap to less than 12 inches
2. Variable rate technologies (VRT) that allow the rate of pesticide application to dynamically change for site specific applications
3. “Smart sprayers” that utilize automatic sensors and computer controlled nozzles to turn individual nozzles on and off
4. Computer guided application systems that integrate real time meteorological data and computer model guidance to reduce pesticide drift from aerial application
5. Re-circulating spray technologies that capture and reuse overspray to reduce overall pesticide application rate and off-site spray drift
6. Electrostatic spray technologies to reduce overall application rate and off-site spray drift

Documentation Requirements

1. Written documentation for each year of this enhancement describing these items, where applicable:
    a. Type of electronic spray control technology used
    b. Dates technology is used
    c. Acres treated

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: Air Quality Enhancement Activity – *AIR07 – GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology.*

A SmartSprayer is defined as any sprayer equipped with sensors that control spray nozzles so that an individual nozzle is turned on when weeds are detected within or between the row and is turned off when a low density of weeds or no weeds are detected between the rows.

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

Include written documentation for each treatment area and year of this enhancement including:
____ A description of technology used
____ A Map showing the location of where the practice was applied.

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM04- Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection and wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description
Where existing filter strips are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
Widening existing conservation filter strips that currently meet NRCS conservation practice standard water quality criteria can provide food and cover for native and game species as well as enhancing aquatic habitat. Extended filter strips offer more surface area to filter out sediments and agro-chemicals. Filter strips can also offer buffers to mitigate pesticide drift during pesticide applications and pollen drift where the mixing of plant varieties is not desired.

Riparian habitats are important transition zones between terrestrial landscapes and aquatic zones. Wildlife species utilize these transition zones because they provide a unique combination of cover, access to water and often provide important travel corridors. Often times filter strips are adjacent to these riparian areas or are important for contributing clean water, and habitat areas nearby. Extending existing filter strips not only enhances wildlife habitat but it increases the effectiveness of water quality protection they provide to the streams.

Criteria
Existing filter strips must meet minimum state water quality requirements for width. Extend the existing filter strip for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance habitat and water quality functions.

The extended filter strip must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses and/or perennial forbs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible.

1. All site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard criteria and specifications.
2. Any use of the filter strip must not compromise its intended purpose. Vegetation from filter strips can be harvested for bio-energy as long as the harvesting is done in accordance with a plan that does not compromise the water quality and wildlife benefits of the extended filter strip.
3. To the extent possible the filter strip areas and extended filter strip areas will be vegetated to increase overland flow interception and increase water quality values of the stream or water body.

4. The extension of filter strips can incorporate other buffer types (riparian herbaceous and riparian forest) where applicable to meet specific operator management goals.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Once established, filter strips must not be mowed, disked, grazed, or otherwise disturbed, until after the primary wildlife ground nesting period has ended.
2. Filter strips will be regularly maintained for its intended purpose through the life of the contract. This includes any removal of vegetation, including grazing.
3. Grazing is allowed if a grazing management plan is used that will maintain the integrity and diversity of vegetation and the filtering function of the vegetation.
4. Filter strips will have a wildlife management plan to maintain established plant communities through the life of the contract. The wildlife plan will maintain the plant community and its structural diversity and provide habitat for intended species.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the location and size of enhanced filter strips.
2. Documentation of the type and rates of vegetation planted in the new filter strip areas.

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM04 –*Extending existing filter strips for water quality protection and wildlife habitat*

1. a. Width of Existing Filter Strip: _____

   b. Width of Added Filter Strip (Min 15 ft): _____

   c. Total Width of Filter Strip (Min 60 ft): _____

2. Use the Critical Area Planting Standard (342) to determine seeding rate.

3. Use Species from Conservation Cover Standard (327) Table 3 rated excellent or good for wildlife to select species (Min of 5 species with at least 2 grasses and 1 perennial forb)

4. No disturbance of Filter Strip allowed during the Primary Nesting Season which is from May 15 through August 1.

5. Residual Plant heights shall not be less than 6 inches

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres

Provide written documentation for each treatment area and year of enhancement including:

____ A Map showing where the activities were applied including treatment acreage

____ Documentation of the species and rates planted in each of the added filter strips

Animal Enhancement Activity - ANM07- Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description
Where existing field borders are utilized, extend them to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
Widening existing field borders that currently meet NRCS conservation practice standard criteria can provide food and cover for native and game species as well as enhancing wildlife habitat. Extended field borders offer more surface area to filter out sediments and agro-chemicals. Field borders can also offer buffers to mitigate pesticide drift during pesticide applications and pollen drift where the mixing of plant varieties is not desired.

Wildlife species utilize transition zones between agricultural fields because they provide a unique combination of cover and often provide important travel corridors. Often times field borders are adjacent to riparian areas and are important for contributing clean water, and habitat areas nearby. Extending existing field borders not only enhances wildlife habitat but it increases the effectiveness of water quality protection if the border is next to a stream.

Criteria for Extending Existing Field Borders

Existing field borders must meet minimum state requirements for width. Extend the existing field border for a total of 60 feet or more to enhance habitat and water quality functions.

The extended field borders must be composed of at least 5 species of non-noxious, wildlife friendly grasses, perennial forbs and /or shrubs best suited to site conditions. Include species that provide pollinator food and habitat where possible.

1. All site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard criteria and specifications.
2. Any use of the field border must not compromise its intended purpose. Vegetation from field borders can be harvested for bio-energy as long as the harvesting is done in accordance with a plan that does not compromise the water quality and wildlife benefits of the extended filter strip.
3. To the extent possible the field border areas and extended field border areas will be vegetated to increase overland flow interception and increase water quality values if they also border a stream or water body.

4. The extension of field borders can incorporate other buffer types (filter strips, riparian herbaceous and riparian forest) where applicable to meet specific operator management goals.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Once established, field borders must not be mowed, disked, grazed, or otherwise disturbed, until after the primary wildlife ground nesting period has ended.
2. Field border will be regularly maintained for its intended purpose through the life of the contract. This includes any removal of vegetation, including grazing.
3. Grazing is allowed if a grazing management plan is used that protects the integrity, diversity and function of the riparian area.
4. Field borders will have a wildlife management plan to maintain established plant communities through the life of the contract. The wildlife plan will maintain the plant community and its structural diversity and provide habitat for intended species.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the location and size of enhanced field borders.
2. Documentation of the type and rates of vegetation planted in the new field borders.

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: ANM07 –*Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat*

1. a. Width of Existing Field Border: _____

   b. Width of Added Field Border (Min 15 ft): _____

   c. Total Width of Field Border (Min 60 ft): _____

2. Use the Critical Area Planting Standard (342) to determine seeding rate.

3. Use Species from Conservation Cover Standard (327) Table 3 rated excellent or good for wildlife to select species (Min of 5 species with at least 2 grasses and 1 perennial forb)

4. No disturbance of Field Border area is allowed during the Primary Nesting Season from May 15 through August 1.

5. Residual Plant heights shall not be less than 6 inches

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres

Provide written documentation for each treatment area and year of enhancement including:

____ A Map showing where the activities were applied including treatment acreage

____ Documentation of the species and rates planted in each of the added Field Borders

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM08 – Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat

Enhancement Description
Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland

Benefits
Intensively managed agricultural land does not provide the habitat required for many species of birds and animals. By establishing or improving the composition and structure of native plant species in non-cropped areas, essential habitat will provide wildlife, including pollinators, with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather.

Criteria

1. Vegetation type will primarily be native to the site or recognized by NRCS standards as suitable wildlife and pollinator habitat. Vegetation density will be sufficient to control erosion, retard sediment from leaving the site, and to permit runoff water to be of high quality. Livestock will be excluded from the site unless prescribed grazing is identified in the management prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.

2. If the non-cropped area is being managed as early successional habitat, it will be maintained by prescribed fire, periodic disking or suitable mechanical disturbance, prescribed grazing, or selective herbicide application. Maintenance activities will be conducted outside of the nesting/fawning season or by NRCS prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.

3. If the non-cropped area is being managed as woodland, tree species typically associated with natural site conditions will be planted and/or maintained. Woodland patches will not be smaller than 1 acre and minimum width will be 90 feet. Woodland patches included in this enhancement will not be harvested or cut for firewood during the contract. Natural understory vegetation snags and down woody material will be maintained naturally.

4. Any existing wetlands used as the non-cropped areas for wildlife will be at least ½ acre in size and will be surrounded by a minimum of 33 feet of vegetation. See number 1 above.

5. Invasive, exotic vegetation must be controlled in all managed non-cropped habitat.

Documentation Requirements

1. Map showing areas and size to be treated
2. Identify what type of land use applies to each area
3. Documentation of the existing plant species

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM10 – Harvest hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape

Enhancement Description
Harvesting hay using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. These measures include timing of haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hay land during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting and fawning for the following year, and applying haying techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland (hayland)

Benefits
Many species of birds and animals use pastures and hay lands as cover, to find food, nesting areas, and rearing their young. These include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits to name just a few. Some species of ground nesting birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Managing haying techniques can be beneficial to the survival of ground nesting birds and other wildlife species. Altering harvesting routes can provide escape routes for hens, hens with broods and hiding fawns. Delaying harvests or leaving portions of a field un-harvested provide nesting habitat.

Criteria
Use one of the following techniques (A or B) to protect wildlife during haying activities.

A. Defer haying. The producer *will apply and maintain at least two of the following* management actions specifically for improving or protecting grassland functions for the state identified targeted wildlife species.

1. Do not cut hay on at least 1/3 of the hay acres each year. Idle strips or blocks must be at least 30 feet wide.
2. Cutting haying is allowed on all acres each year, however for at least 1/3 of the hay acreage, hay cutting must be either before and/or after the primary nesting or fawning seasons based on state established dates for the targeted species.
3. Increase forage heights after mowing to state specified minimum heights for the targeted species on all hayed acres.

B. For all haying that will be conducted during the nesting/fawning season the producer will implement *at least two of the following* to flush wildlife from hay fields during the mowing operation:

1. A flush bar attachment will be required on the mower
2. All mowing will be done during daylight hours
3. Haying pattern will be either:
    a. Begin on one end of the field and work back and forth across the field, or
    b. Begin in the center of the field and work outward

Documentation Requirements

1. Map showing the fields that were treated
2. Option A – A picture showing residual heights of hay after mowing
3. Option B – A picture showing the flush bar attachment on tractor

Animal Enhancement Activity –ANM18- Retrofit Watering Facility for Wildlife Escape

Enhancement Description
Retrofit existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for the escape of wildlife that becomes trapped while trying to drink.

Land Use Applicability:
Pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits
This practice will provide wildlife with a means of escape while utilizing a livestock water facility as a water source. It is also intended to replace escape structures that are not functioning properly.

Criteria
Wildlife escape structures for watering facilities must met the following requirements:

1. Extend into the water and meet the inside wall of the watering facility
2. Reach to the bottom of the watering facility
3. Be firmly secured to the rim of the watering facility so as not to be displaced by livestock
4. Be built of graspable, long-lasting materials, such as painted or coated metal grating, roughened fiberglass, concrete, rock and mortar, or high-strength plastic composites.
5. Have a slope no steeper than 45 degrees
6. Be located to cause minimal interference with livestock drinking
7. One structure for every 30 linear feet of watering facility edge.

Documentation Requirements

1. Producer will provide a photograph that clearly shows properly installed escape/access device for each water facility

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT01 – Establish pollinator habitat

Enhancement Description
Seed nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits
Increased habitat for pollinators will improve fruit set, size and quality, productivity per acre, biodiversity, beneficial insect populations, and the food base for many wildlife species. The increased plant diversity of pollinator habitat will enhance wildlife habitat and may increase populations of other beneficial insects, reducing the need for pesticides.

Criteria

Pollinator habitat areas must be at least ½ acre in size for each 40 acres of cropland, pastureland, rangeland or forest land. Where the applicable land use is greater than 40 acres, the 0.5 acre habitat areas must be interspersed in the larger land use areas. For example, for an 80 acre cropland parcel, the required 1 acre of habitat should not be located in one corner of the 80 acre field. The pollinator habitat areas must include a minimum of nine flowering plant species including forbs, legumes, vines, shrubs, and/or trees.

1. Lists of plants suitable for pollinator habitat will be developed by NRCS at the state level. The lists must emphasize as many native species as practical.
2. The habitat planting will include (as a minimum) three early, three mid, and three late flowering species from the NRCS state list. Plants that produce toxic nectar will not be planted.
3. Site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice and specifications. Management and/or maintenance activities such as mowing, haying, burning, or grazing must be conducted outside of the growing season or bloom period. Maintenance should be done on less then 1/3 of the acreage during any given year.
4. Insecticides and herbicides should not be used in the habitat planting area. Even natural herbicides and botanical insecticides can harm bees and other pollinators. If adjacent crop areas are treated use one or more of the following actions to limit insecticides in the pollinator habitat area:
    a. Create insecticide free buffers in the first 25 feet of crop area,
    b. Use application methods that minimizing drift to the adjacent habitat,

   c. Apply active ingredients in the evening when most insect pollinators are not active.
5. The planted habitat areas must be regularly inspected for invasive and/or noxious plants or other plants that may compromise the purpose of this enhancement. Undesirable species should be controlled using the least damaging method.
6. Any other use of the pollinator habitat area must not compromise its intended purpose.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the location and dimension of the pollinator habitat areas
2. A list of pollinator species planted
3. List of maintenance activities carried out to manage the pollinator habitat areas

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT01 – Establish pollinator habitat

Criteria

1. Pollinator habitat shall be a minimum of 1 acre for every 40 acres enrolled.
2. A minimum of 1 bunchgrass or sedge, 9 forbs, and one legume will be planted.
    a. Ecotype plant materials are highly recommended to ensure proper bloom period and native pollinator synchronization.
3. A minimum of 45% of the plant cover in an established stand should consist of forbs.
4. See the Iowa NRCS Pollinator Habitat Job Sheet for a list of pollinator friendly plant species. Also, the Insect Visitors of Illinois Wildflowers database (http://www.flowervisitors.info/index.htm) is a helpful resource for linking specific pollinators to their native nectar plants.
5. Site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to Practice Standard 327 Conservation Cover and specification.
6. For local growing season begin and end dates, use the applicable County Soil Survey's 24 degrees F probability, "*5 in 10 years later than*" dates listed in the table Probability of Last Freezing Temperature in Spring and First in Fall.

Documentation Requirements

1. Completed CPA-4 Iowa NRCS Seeding Plan and associated seed tags.

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management

Enhancement Description

Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits

Proper grazing management will maintain and improve vegetation and soil conditions, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Monitoring can be utilized to determine if current grazing management actions are having the desired effect on natural resources. Monitoring enables managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed

Criteria

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each grazed field
2. Each key grazing area will be monitored annually once established
3. Monitoring will include a photo for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
    a. Rangeland apparent trend
    b. Plant productivity determinations
    c. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
    d. Locally applicable methods such as those described in the "Monitoring for Grasslands, Shrublands and Savanna Ecosystems http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/monit_assess/monitoring.php

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing plan which meets the CSP eligibility requirements
2. A map showing the location of each key grazing area
3. Photographs from the fixed photo location points
4. Written documentation of the monitoring data collected
5. Written documentation of how monitoring data was used to adjust grazing management plans including modifications and objectives.

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 – Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and pastureland

Benefits

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

Criteria

1. Identification of wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation
2. Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions
3. Removal of dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired
4. Removal of other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat
5. Replacement of removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function
6. Pruning or thinning of less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions

Documentation Requirements

1. Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
2. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak

Plant Enhancement Activity PLT10 - Intensive management of rotational grazing enhancement

Enhancement Description

This enhancement is for the intensive management of livestock grazing to increase production, and improve forage quality and livestock health. The grazing system is managed to produce high quality, nutritious forage and maintain plants with sufficient energy reserves to recover quickly when adequate soil moisture is available for regrowth. Generally, livestock are rotated through pastures in the grazing system based on their daily dry matter intake and nutritional requirements, and the physiological growth and nutritional stage of the forage plants. This enhancement is for rotational grazing systems that consist of multiple paddocks and frequent rotations (e.g. grazing period 3-10 days).

Land Use Applicability

Pasture and rangeland

Benefits

The main benefits of Intensive Management of Rotational Grazing are efficient resource use with increased forage utilization, improved manure distribution, and nutrient cycling throughout the grazing acreage, and increased carbon sequestration resulting from greater forage production. Optimal environmental conditions are achieved by maintaining healthy, actively growing forage plants that protect the soil surface from erosion, thereby reducing risks to ground or surface water quality.

Criteria

A prescribed grazing plan is developed and implemented to address the following requirements.

1. Manage vegetation to provide sufficient forage intake for the type and class of livestock, ensuring that sufficient vegetative material remains after a grazing event that the plants can recover and regrow. This is accomplished by dividing pastures into multiple units and using intense grazing periods followed by periods of non-grazing for regrowth of grazed vegetation. The length, intensity and frequency of grazing will vary depending upon livestock species, location and vegetation and will be determined by NRCS at the state level. In addition, the grazing system must also ensure that plants are left in condition to survive the winter or dormant periods of the year. Manage grazing and rest periods to follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing practice standard (528).

2. Use a fencing system that is flexible enough to control the amount and location of grazing and confine the livestock.
3. Provide a sufficient quantity of high quality drinking water based on livestock requirements
4. Manage livestock access to riparian areas to prevent pollution of surface and ground waters and to ensure the livestock are not exposed to poor quality drinking water, disease-causing insects and bacteria, and/or injury-prone physical conditions.
5. For pastureland, manage soil nutrients to ensure the grazing vegetation has sufficient nutrients for adequate production and plant health. Frequent rotation of pastures will provide better distribution of manure and urine. However, supplemental fertilization may be needed. Apply additional nutrients based on soil test results, realistic forage yield goals and land grant university recommendations.

Documentation Requirements

1) Provide a prescribed grazing plan that addresses the criteria for this enhancement
2) Provide a map or aerial photo showing the pastures/paddocks making up the rotational grazing system

Soil Erosion Enhancement Activity – SOE01 - Continuous no-till with high residue

Enhancement Description
Utilize continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed in the rotation in combination with high and low residue producing crops or cover crops to maintain a high level of residue cover through critical erosion periods.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland.

Benefits
High levels of surface residue with continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed reduce erosion by wind and water by up to 90%. The result is increased soil organic matter compared to intensively tilled soils with no surface residue protection. This will in turn, enhance and protect water quality and biotic communities that depend on clean water.

Criteria
Implementation of this enhancement **requires** the use of continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed. The no-till/strip till/direct seed system must incorporate 1 or more of the following activities.

1. Maintain high level of residue cover after no-till planting all crops in the rotation.
    a. Utilize high residue crops in the rotation
    b. Maintain a minimum of 50% residue cover after no-till planting all crops.
2. Use high residue cover crops to provide adequate residue for no-till planting after or between low residue crops in rotation.
    a. Utilize high and low residue crops in the rotation
    b. Use no-till to plant high residue cover crops between two low residue annual crops
    c. Maintain a minimum of 50% residue cover after no-till planting all crops.

3. Low disturbance no-till planting and moderate level of residue cover after or between low residue crops in rotation.
    a. Utilize high and low residue crops in the rotation
    b. After high residue crops, maintain a minimum of 50% residue cover after no-till planting
    c. After low residue crops use low disturbance no-till planting; maintain a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) $\leq$ 20 and a minimum of 30% residue cover after planting.

In addition, each field must also have the soil loss at or below the tolerance (T) level for wind and/or water erosion for the crop rotation and a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) of 30 or less for each planted crop or cover crop in the rotation.

Documentation Requirements

1. Crop rotation records including rotation length in years, crops and cover crops planted.
2. Sequence and description of operations for each crop and/or cover crop including harvest, residue conditioning, nutrient placement and planting/seeding.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: Soil Erosion Enhancement Activity – *SOE01 – Continuous no-till with high residue.*

Additional Criteria

- No full width tillage is allowed
- Seedbed preparation, planting method and fertilizer placement will not disturb more than one-third of the row width
- Fertilizer and manure placement shall be limited to low disturbance methods such as surface application or injection with narrow knives on 30 inch spacing.

Examples of High Residue Cover Types

High Residue Crops 1/	High Residue Cover Crops 2/, 3/
Barley	Annual Ryegrass
Corn	Oats
Millet	Sorghum-Sudangrass
Oats	Winter Barley
Popcorn	Winter Rye
Rice	Winter Triticale
Rye	Winter Wheat
Sorghum	Buckwheat
Sorghum-Sudangrass	Forage Radish
Triticale	Turnips
Wheat	Cowpeas
	Crimson Clover
	Hairy Vetch
	Alsike Clover
	Red Clover
	Sweetclover

1/ Full-season small grain crops planted and managed for grain production. Crop residues will be managed to meet the requirements of this enhancement (no burning, haying or straw/stover havesting. etc.).

2/ Acceptable cover crops are established early enough in the growing season to provide adequate fall and winter cover. Cover crops will be seeded in the months shown in Table 1 of

the Cover Crop practice standard (340) and will be seeded according to the criteria and rates listed in the standard.

4/ For additional cover crop species see Managing Cover Crops Profitably third edition. http://www.mccc.msu.edu/documents/ManagingCCProfitably.pdf

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:

1. ***Complete the table below: Applied rotation and applied acres. Provide a map with delineation of area where the enhancement was applied if it is a partial field.***
2. ***Sequence and description of operations for each crop and/or cover crop including harvest, residue conditioning, nutrient placement, and planting/seeding operations.***

_____ _____ _____ _____
Signature of Producer Date Fields Acres or Number

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS
Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer at time of Planning					To be completed by Producer at Certification	
Tract	Field(s)	Ac Planned	Current Rotation w/tillage	Plan Rotation w/tillage	Rotation Applied w/tillage	Ac Applied
Ex. T1234	1	100	C NT – B MT	C NT – B NT –W NT	C NT – B NT – W NT	100

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-5 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 6-7 PRODUCER COMPLETES
C=Corn; B=soybeans/edible beans; W=Wheat; M=Milo; A=Alfalfa; O=Oats; cc=cover crop; Others=_____

Soil Quality Enhancement Activity –SQL04- Use of cover crop mixes

Enhancement Description
This enhancement is for the use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland.

Benefits
The use of a cover crop mixture that contains two (2) or more plants is often more effective then a planting of single species cover crop. Cover crop mixtures adapt to variation in soils, increase biomass production, provide broader spectrum of weed control, have better winter survival and ground cover and attract a range of beneficial insects. Nutrients can be trapped or produced depending on existing soil conditions and plants used. Mixes can be a grass/legume, multiple cultivars of a single species, or a mix containing plants with different growth patterns, e.g. fast and slow, tall and short.

Criteria

1. Cover crop mixes must contain a minimum of two (2) different plant species or cultivars of a single species with different maturity dates.
2. Cover crop species will be selected from state specific lists in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.
3. Crops planted following cover crop must be no-tilled.
4. Nutrient applications for crops following cover crop should consider nitrogen fixation from leguminous cover crops.

Documentation Requirements

1. Written documentation for each year of this enhancement describing the following items:
    a. Cover crop species used and dated planted
    b. Date and amount of fertilizer applied
    c. Method to kill cover crop and date completed
    d. Crop planted after cover crop and method used
1. A map showing fields where the enhancement is applied
2. Photographs of a representative number of fields showing cover crop mix

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Iowa Addendum: Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – *SQL04 – Use of Cover crops Mixes.*

Acceptable cover crops are established early enough in the growing season to provide adequate fall and winter cover. Cover crops will be seeded in the months shown in Table 1 of the Cover Crop practice standard (340) and will be seeded according to the criteria and rates listed in the standard.

A list of potential cover crops species is listed in Cover Crop practice standard (340). The cover crops listed are not all inclusive. For additional cover crop species see Managing Cover Crops Profitably third edition.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer at time of Planning					To be completed by Producer at Certification	
Tract	Field(s)	Existing Rotation	Planned Rotation	Acres Planned	Acres Applied	Cover Crop Used
Ex. T1234	1	C-B	C cc1-B cc2	60	60	cc1 rye cc2 buckwheat

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-5 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 6-7 PRODUCER COMPLETES
C=Corn; B=soybeans/edible beans; W=Wheat; M=Milo; A=Alfalfa; O=Oats; cc=cover crop;
Others=_____

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Certification of Enhancement Completion:

I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:

1. Planned rotation, cover crops used, and the number of acres where the enhancement was planned and applied (complete the above table).
2. Date type and amount of fertilizer applied.
3. Method to kill cover crop and date completed.
4. Crop planted after cover crop and method used to establish.
5. A map with delineation of the area where the enhancement was applied.
6. Digital images of a representative number of fields showing the cover mix.

_____	_____	_____	
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL03 - Rotation of supplement and feeding areas

Enhancement Description

The proper location and regular movement of livestock concentration areas such as feeding areas and mineral blocks in a manner that will improve livestock distribution, reduce localized areas of disturbances and reduce impacts on water bodies.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forest land.

Benefits

The benefits of proper location and rotation of supplement and feeding areas are:

a. Minimize impact around water sources and facilities
b. Aid in livestock distribution and utilization of forage
c. Reduce compaction of the soil and excess trampling of vegetation
d. Reduce high concentrations of nutrients around water sources
e. Improve animal health (concentrated areas of parasites etc.)

Criteria

1. Move all supplement (such as salt and mineral) locations between grazing periods and/or on an annual basis.
2. Locate supplement at least ¼ mile (1,320 ft) from surface water and watering facilities. In those situations where pasture size limits supplement placement or multiple water sources preclude meeting the minimum distance requirement, move supplement areas more frequently to prevent nutrient buildup and to maintain good ground cover.
3. Move all feeding locations (including creep feeders) every 30 days.

Documentation Requirements

A map showing the planned locations of supplement and feeding areas in each pasture and a schedule for moving these locations.

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL04 – Plant tissue testing and analysis to improve nitrogen management

Enhancement Description
Use plant tissue tests to adjust nitrogen application rates.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland.

Benefits
The use of either plant tissue testing or leaf tissue testing is an adaptive nitrogen management technique used to adjust nitrogen application rates in-season (leaf tissue test) or for the following crop year (stalk test). Test such as these help provide a thorough analysis of how nitrogen is being used by the current crop, giving a basis for adjustments to nitrogen rates. The end result is a more complete utilization of the nitrogen applied and less nitrogen remaining in the soil to be lost to the environment through nitrate leaching or soil emissions of nitrous oxide.

Criteria

This enhancement requires the use of an analysis of appropriate plant tissue to monitor the uptake of nitrogen and other nutrients during the growing season and to make necessary adjustments in nutrient applications. The purpose is to correlate the application of N during the growing season to plant needs. In addition, deficiencies in other plant nutrients that would restrict N uptake and utilization must also be corrected. Follow guidelines from the laboratory and local land grant university for interpretation of the results and appropriate adjustments in the application of N and other nutrients.

1. In addition to leaf tissue analysis, the following testing and analysis information is specific to nitrogen management for corn.
    a. Corn stalk testing and analysis - The nitrogen status of the corn crop can be determined by measuring the nitrate concentrations in the lower portions of cornstalks at the end of the growing season. This involves taking an 8” sample of the cornstalk after black layer development in corn. The stalk is analyzed for nitrate to determine if the corn received insufficient, sufficient, or excessive levels of nitrogen. Since this test is conducted after the current corn crop is mature, the results are used to “fine-tune” nitrogen recommendations in the next corn crop. Follow your Land Grant University guidelines for the use of this type of test.

b. Corn leaf tissue testing and analysis - Chlorophyll meter readings can be used to determine the nitrogen status of corn late in the vegetative growth period. This involves planting "reference strips" where 10-25% more nitrogen is applied than recommended. Then a chlorophyll meter is used to compare the reference strips with the rest of the field to determine if nitrogen is deficient. Additional late season nitrogen is applied if needed. For additional information, follow your Land Grant University guidelines for using and interpreting the results of a chlorophyll meter test.

2. Use similar guidelines for plant tissue testing for other crops that require significant nitrogen inputs.
3. Producer must have a current soil test (no more than 3 years old).
4. Nutrient application rates are within the "Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.

Documentation Requirements

Documentation for each treatment area (field) and year of this enhancement describing these items:

1. A map showing where the activities are applied.
2. Test used (stalk, leaf or other plant tissue)
3. Dates of test(s)
4. Acres for each treatment area
5. Soil test results for each treatment area
6. Manure analysis results (if applicable)
7. Crop yields (both yield goals and measured yield(if available))
8. Amounts of all nutrients applied in each treatment area
9. Plant tissue test results (including reference strips)
10. Change in annual N applied due to adaptive management change per treatment area

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Addendum: Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL04 – Plant tissue testing and analysis to improve nitrogen management

Iowa Criteria

1. Use Iowa State University's publication PM 2026: Sensing Nitrogen Stress in Corn for in-season leaf testing and nitrogen analysis.

2. Use Iowa State University's publication PM 1584: Cornstalk Testing to Evaluate Nitrogen Management for end-of-season corn stalk tests and interpretation. Choose sample sites to produce information that will be useful in making N application decisions for next year. For example avoid poor production areas of the field unless the area will be fertilized using variable-rate technologies. The producer may select samples to represent major soil types, landforms, or other field characteristics which impact production. Each composite example should represent no more than 20 acres. Additional interpretation guidance is available at: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2010/0914sawyer.htm.

3. Use Iowa State University nitrogen application recommendations. For corn use either:
   a. ISU's Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator (on-line) which is described in ISU publication PM 2015: Concepts and rationale for regional nitrogen rate guidelines for corn, or
   b. PM 1714: Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in Iowa

   For other crops consult ISU publications.

4. Soil sampling will be done according to Iowa State University's guide PM 287: Take a Good Soil Sample and interpreted by guide PM 1310: Interpretations of Soil Test Results.

Documentation

1. Complete the fertilizer application information in attached table or provide equivalent documentation from existing records.
2. Attach
   a. Field map
   b. Test type and results including date
   c. Soil test
   d. Manure analysis if applicable

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

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Field ID	Acres	Crop and place in rotation	Yield	Planned application N-P-K (lbs/ac)*	Fertilizer Product (include grade or analysis and form)	Rate (Specify Units)	Actual application N-P-K (lbs/ac)*	Date Applied	In-season reduction or discussion of how stalk test will change (or not) next year's plan
			Goal:						
			Actual:						
					Total				
			Goal:						
			Actual:						
					Total				
			Goal:						
			Actual:						
					Total				

* Example 120-40-0 would be 120 lbs N, 40 lbs P_2O_5 , and 0 lbs K_2O

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL06 – Apply controlled release nitrogen fertilizer

Enhancement Description
At least 50% of the pre-emergent and early post emergent nitrogen fertilizer used for crop production must be slow-release or controlled release formulations.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
Nutrient management encompasses managing the amount, source, placement, and timing of the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments. Nutrient management effectively utilizes available nutrient resources to supply crops with nutrients required to efficiently produce food, forage, fiber, and cover while minimizing environmental degradation.

The use of slow or controlled release nitrogen fertilizer makes nitrogen available to plants over a longer portion of the growing season to match the plant uptake needs. This limits the loss of nitrogen to leaching and denitrification, and can help control soil emissions of the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide.

Criteria
Implementation of this enhancement requires:

1. The use of one or more nitrogen fertilizer products defined as slow-release or controlled-release that are recommended or concurred with by NRCS and the state Land Grant University (LGU) on all treatment acres to supply at least 50% of the LGU recommended nitrogen requirement for the crop(s) grown.
2. Application of nutrients within the LGU recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.
3. Minimize soil surface disturbance during nitrogen placement.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing where the activities are applied.
2. Fertilizer product used
3. Treatment acres
4. Soil test results
5. Crops grown and yields (both yield goals and measured yield)
6. Calibration of fertilizer application equipment
7. Nutrient application rates/amounts and application dates for each treatment area

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Iowa Addendum: Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL06 – Apply controlled release fertilizer

Iowa Criteria

1. Only products that have been adequately tested under agronomic conditions and their efficacy has been concurred with by ISU can be used for this enhancement. Not adequately tested or not ISU concurred controlled or slow release products include sulfur coated urea, and methylene coated urea, Urea-formaldehyde (UF), Crotonylidine diurea (CDU), Isobutylidene diurea (IBDU), Dicyandiamide (DCD), and some polymer coated ureas.

2. Nitrification inhibitors and urease inhibitors which are other forms of "stabilized" nitrogen do not qualify under this enhancement.

3. Soil sampling will be done according to Iowa State University's guide PM 287 Take a Good Soil Sample and interpreted by guide PM 1310 Interpretations of Soil Test Results.

Documentation

1. Document the calibration of the fertilizer application equipment.

Type of Equipment	Date of Calibration

2. Complete the fertilizer application information in attached table or provide equivalent documentation from existing records.

3. Attach
   a. Field map
   b. Soil test results

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Field ID	Acres	Crop and place in rotation	Yield Goal	Yield Actual	Planned application $N\text{-}P_2O_5\text{-}K_2O$ (lbs/ac)*	Fertilizer Product	Rate (Specify Units)	Actual application $N\text{-}P_2O_5\text{-}K_2O$ (lbs/ac)*	Date Applied

* Example 120-40-0 would be 120 lbs N, 40 lbs P_2O_5 , and 0 lbs K_2O

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL07 – Split nitrogen applications, 50% after crop emergence or pasture green up

Enhancement Description

Apply no more than 50% of total crop nitrogen needs within 30 days prior to planting or in the case of pasture or hay after green up of the dormant grasses. Apply the remaining 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence or pasture green up.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits

Timing of nitrogen application can be used to ensure adequate amounts of N are available during critical growth stages. Application rates can also be adjusted based on crop forage conditions to refine yield goals. Split application of 50% or more of the total N needs allows for more efficient plant uptake and increases nutrient utilization. resulting in a reduction in the potential loss of N through leaching and or other nitrogen-based compounds like the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide to the environment.

Criteria

Implementation of this enhancement requires:

1. Regardless of form or application method (fertilizer, manure or any other organic by-products), apply no more than 50% of crop N needs within 30 days prior to planting and 50% or more of the N needs after crop emergence or in the case of pasture or hay after green up of the dormant grasses.
2. Post emergence N application rates can be reduced based on crop scouting reports that would suggest lower yield potential. Scouting reports need to be provided.
3. Producer must have annual manure analysis (if organic nutrient sources are used)
4. Nutrient application rates must be within the "Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.
5. Soil surface disturbance must be minimized.

Documentation Requirements for Split Nitrogen Applications

1. Written documentation for each treatment area (field) and year of this enhancement describing these items:
    a. Acres
    b. Planned crop
    c. Planting date and crop planted
    d. Dates of crop emergence
    e. Annual manure analysis results (if organic nutrient sources are used)
    f. Crop yields (both yield goals and measured yield)
    g. Nutrient application rates/amounts and application dates for each treatment area
2. A map showing where the activities are applied.

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Iowa Addendum: Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL07 – Split nitrogen applications, 50% after crop emergence or pasture green up

Iowa Criteria

1. For spring planted crops, no nitrogen will be applied in the fall. Since manure, Monoammonium phosphate (MAP), and Diammonium phosphate (DAP) contain N, they cannot be applied in the fall.

2. Use Iowa State University nitrogen application recommendations. Use either:
   a. the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator (on-line) which is described in ISU publication PM 2015: Concepts and rationale for regional nitrogen rate guidelines for corn, or
   b. PM 1714: Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn in Iowa. Use Table 1 to determine the planned N rate for the crop. The initial application must be ≤ 50% of this total N rate. The second application would be the remaining N. If using the late-spring soil nitrate test as described, the total N cannot exceed the rates in Table 1. This is a departure from the methodology described in PM 1714.
   c. For other crops consult ISU publications.

   Iowa State University does not use yield goals nor soil tests to determine N rates.

3. Soil sampling will be done according to Iowa State University's guide PM 287 Take a Good Soil Sample and interpreted by guide PM 1310 Interpretations of Soil Test Results.

Documentation

1. Complete the fertilizer application information in attached table or provide equivalent documentation from existing records.

2. Attach
   a. Field map
   b. Soil test
   c. Manure analysis if applicable

Certification of Enhancement Completion:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature of Producer	Date	Fields	Acres or Number

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Field ID	Acres	Crop and place in rotation	Yield	Crop planting & emergence date	Planned application N-P-K (lbs/ac)*	Fertilizer Product (include grade or analysis and form)	Rate (Specify Units)	Actual application N-P-K (lbs/ac)*	Date Applied
			Goal:	Plant date:	Pre-plant:				
			Actual:	Emerge date	Sidedress:				
						Total			
			Goal:	Plant date:	Pre-plant:				
			Actual:	Emerge date	Sidedress:				
						Total			
			Goal:	Plant date:	Pre-plant:				
			Actual:	Emerge date	Sidedress:				
						Total			

* Example 120-40-0 would be 120 lbs N, 40 lbs P_2O_5 , and 0 lbs K_2O

Water Quality Enhancement Activity– WQL10 – Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen

Enhancement Description
Plant a cover crop that will scavenge nitrogen left in the soil after the harvest of a previous crop. Suitable cover crops include those with at least a "Very Good" rating for scavenging nitrogen as documented in "***Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition***" (Sarrantonio, 1998**),** Chart 2 Performance & Roles, pg 67**.** Examples include cereal rye, barley, forage radish and sorghum sudan.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland.

Benefits
Planting an annual cover crop to scavenge residual nutrients from cropland after the harvest of a previous crop effectively utilizes residual nutrient resources to supply following crops with nutrients required to efficiently produce food, forage, fiber, and cover while minimizing environmental degradation.

Criteria
Implementation of this enhancement requires:

1. The cover crop selected shall have the growth rate and rooting depth required to scavenge excess nitrogen from the root zone of the previous crop. Suitable cover crops include those with at least a "Very Good" rating for scavenging nitrogen as documented in ***Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition, Chart 2 Performance & Roles, pg 67.*** Examples include cereal rye, barley, forage radish and sorghum sudan.
2. Timing of planting and seeding rates for cover crops shall follow the recommendations in the respective NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
3. The producer must have a current soil test (no more than 3 years old).
4. Nitrogen application rates for the crop following the cover crop must be reduced by at least 15% from the "Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations to account for the recycling of N by the cover crop.
5. The producer shall not increase soil surface disturbance over existing benchmark conditions.

Documentation Requirements

Documentation for each Treatment area (field) and year of this enhancement describing these items:

1. A map showing where the activities are applied
2. Cover crop species planted
3. Cover crop planting date
4. Cover crop seeding rate (bu/ac)
5. Annual crop planted
6. Nitrogen application rates/amounts for the annual crop
7. Treatment acres

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL11 – Precision application technology to apply nutrients

Enhancement Description
The use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit variations in site-specific conditions found within fields**.**

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
Precision agriculture methods are used to collect information needed to more precisely evaluate production input factors, accurately predict crop yields, and precisely apply variable rates of nutrients. The primary benefit of precision agriculture techniques is the use of accurate information about within field variability to minimize nutrient losses and optimize inputs. Done properly this helps to protect surface and ground water resources while maximizing net production.

Criteria

Implementation of this enhancement requires the use of nutrient management techniques. This enhancement requires:

1. The use of the following precision agriculture practices:
    a. Variable rate technologies (VRT) for nutrient application- Computer-controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer applications based on soil maps, vegetative indexes, or yield maps, etc. used to create management zones. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizer will be applied according to Land Grant University recommendations in the management zones.
    b. Yield monitoring systems - Yields in the field are measured using combine-mounted sensors or volume meters. A GPS receiver mounted on the combine is required to correlate field location with yield to create a yield map.
2. Soil samples for nutrient analysis are taken based on soil management zones or on a maximum of a five acre grid
3. Base nitrogen application rates on a real time analysis of crop nitrogen needs. Examples include in season aerial photography and in field equipment based chlorophyll sensors.
4. Producer must have current soil tests for P and K (and Nitrogen where applicable) that are no more than 3 years old

5. Nutrient application rates must be within the "Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations based on soil testing and established yield goals and considering all nutrient sources.

Documentation Requirements

Documentation for each Treatment area (field) and year of this enhancement describing these items:

1. A map showing where the activities are applied.
2. Treatment acres
3. Crop grown in each treatment area
4. Soil sampling protocol (grid or zone) for each treatment area
5. Number of soil samples taken per treatment area
6. Soil test results
7. Calibration of fertilizer application equipment
8. Nutrient application rates/amounts and application dates for each treatment area
9. When using NDVI, provide an as-applied digital map of nutrients applied

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL12 - Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses

Enhancement Description
Install structures or implement grazing management actions that will assist in managing livestock access to water bodies and water courses.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

Benefits
Management of livestock access to surface waters can have positive impacts on water quality, decrease soil erosion, improve vegetation cover and wildlife habitat. Water quality is especially enhanced due to better manure distribution and reduction of nutrients in surface waters. Livestock performance and health can also be positively impacted.

Criteria

1. A written grazing management plan.
2. Stocking rates that will allow for proper forage utilization.
3. Structures or grazing management activities that include the following activities as necessary to manage livestock access to water bodies:
    a. Install alternative water sources away from water courses
        i. Installation of solar or conventional pumps, hydraulic rams, nose pumps
        ii. Development of wells or guzzlers
        iii. Installation of pipelines and troughs
    b. Install fencing to exclude livestock to water bodies or water courses
    c. Install hardened stream crossings or water access points
    d. Implement riparian grazing management strategies
        i. Herding
        ii. Seasonal exclusion with rotational grazing system

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing management plan
2. For riparian grazing management strategies, a written narrative describing planned season of livestock grazing use.
3. A map showing locations of installed structures

Conservation Stewardship Program
Conservation Activity List

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. Conservation activities include enhancements and conservation practices.

Enhancements – Conservation activities selected by producers that are used to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance.

Enhancement Bundles- Are specific enhancements whose installation as a group produce a synergy of conservation performance improvement and addresses resource concerns in a more comprehensive manner. Enhancement bundles are made up of enhancements from this list and include at least five enhancement elements.

Practices – Conservation practices are used in CSP for the purpose of encouraging producers to meet additional stewardship thresholds. During the application process, an applicant may identify resource concern stewardship thresholds by land use are not meeting with existing activities, and agree to meet them by installing new conservation practices. The new conservation practices that need to be installed will be indentified by NRCS during the application process. During on-site field verification for approved applicants, NRCS will determine the required practices using the conservation planning process.

Activities that interest you	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Enhancement Name	Enhancement Criteria
	AIR01	Crop				Injecting or incorporating manure	Injecting manure 2 inches or more below soil surface or incorporating applied manure within 24 hours to keep nutrients in place and manage odors.
	AIR02	Crop				Nitrogen Stabilizers for Air Emissions Control	The use of a nitrogen stabilizer with either urea or ammonium fertilizers to control the rate of ammonia and ammonium conversion. For this enhancement “nitrogen stabilizers” includes nitrification inhibitors and urease inhibitors.
	AIR03	Crop				Replace burning of pruning's, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives	Use of non-burning alternatives to dispose of pruning's, removals and other crop residues from orchards, vineyards and other crops. Non-burning alternatives would include chipping, grinding, shredding, mowing or composting these materials.
	AIR04	Crop	Pasture			Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift	Use chemical drift reduction technologies to reduce drift of applied agricultural chemicals from the intended target. Drift reduction reduces damage to non-target desirable plants and animal habitats and reduces pollution of water bodies. Reducing chemical drift may improve air quality by decreasing particulate matter in the air, and in some cases reduce the potential for release of volatile organic compounds (ozone precursors) into the air.
	AIR06	Crop				Replacing oil- and wood-fired heaters in orchards and vineyards	Replace oil- and wood-fired heaters in orchards and vineyards to manage particulate matter emissions from frost protection.
	AIR07	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology	Utilize electronically-controlled or managed chemical spray application technology to more precisely apply agricultural pesticides to intended targets, which can reduce the total amount of chemical applied, and reduces the potential for chemical drift.
	ANM01	Crop				Drainage water management for seasonal wildlife habitat	Managing soil and/or surface water levels during the off-season to provide seasonal wildlife habitat.
	ANM02	Crop				Defer crop production on temporary and seasonal wetlands	Deferring crop production on temporary and/or seasonal wetlands until after spring migratory bird season to promote early successional wetland habitat.
	ANM03		Pasture			Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of the forage base	Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15% or more of the forage base (by weight) using adapted species and varieties, appropriate seeding rates, and timing of seeding.

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	ANM04	Crop	Pasture			Extend existing filter strips for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing filter strips to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider filter strips provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM05	Crop	Pasture	Range		Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing buffers to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider buffers provide more effective riparian habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM06	Crop	Pasture	Range		Extending existing riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing buffers to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider buffers provide more effective riparian habitat for terrestrial animals and provide more inputs to benefit instream habitats.
	ANM07	Crop	Pasture			Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat	Extend existing field borders to gain more efficiency in intercepting overland flow and reducing the transport of nutrients, pesticides and agro-chemicals. Wider field borders provide more effective habitat for terrestrial animals.
	ANM08	Crop	Pasture			Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat	Improve plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.
	ANM09		Pasture	Range	Forest	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat	Implement a grazing management plan that allows for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.
	ANM10	Crop				Harvest hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape	Harvest hay using conservation measures that allow wildlife to flush and escape. Includes timed haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hay land during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting and fawning for the following year, and applying haying techniques that reduce mortality to wildlife.
	ANM11		Pasture	Range	Forest	Patch-burning to enhance wildlife habitat	Use prescribed burning to create patches of different vegetation structure and species composition for the benefit of wildlife.
	ANM12	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Shallow water habitat	Construct, manage or renovate small, shallow wetland sites to encourage water to remain seasonally, often from late winter through early summer (e.g., vernal pools).
	ANM13	Crop	Pasture	Range		Non-forested riparian zone enhancement for fish and wildlife	Utilizing select conservation measures such as relocating equipment operations, trails, or livestock; establishing diverse native vegetation and controlling invasive species; fencing; and extending the width of the riparian zone to enhance wildlife habitat adjacent to riparian zones of streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands.
	ANM14	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Riparian forest buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat	Managing forested riparian zones to achieve streamside cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

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	ANM15	Crop			Forest	Forest stand improvement for Wildlife Habitat and Soil Quality	Creating snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor to a level optimum for native wildlife usage and long-term forest soil health. May be implemented separately or during thinning or harvesting.
	ANM17		Pasture	Range		Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO System	Use of the NUTBAL PRO software to determine if current diet meets livestock nutritional needs. Requires collection and laboratory analysis of forage or fecal samples to determine the nutritional value of grazing forages.
	ANM18		Pasture	Range	Forest	Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape	Retrofit existing watering facilities (troughs, tanks, etc.) to allow for escape of wildlife that become trapped while trying to drink.
	ANM19	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wildlife corridors	Participants will establish corridors with vegetation suited to the natural site conditions and appropriate for the kinds of wildlife present.
	ANM20		Pasture		Forest	Silvopasture for wildlife habitat	Manage silvopastures to promote plant diversity for wildlife habitat.
	ANM21	Crop	Pasture	Range		Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat	Restoration/renovation of prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.
	ANM22	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	Restoration of habitats recognized as rare or declining.
	ANM23	Crop	Pasture	Range		Multi-species Native Perennials for Biomass/Wildlife Habitat	Establishment of native perennial vegetation for biomass production and wildlife habitat.
	ANM24				Forest	Upland forest wildlife structures	Installation of structures for wildlife on forest land.
	ANM25		Pasture			Stockpiling forages to extend the grazing season	Management of grazing to allow some portions a pasture to go ungrazed in order to extend the grazing season and reduce the need for making hay.
	ANM26		Pasture	Range		Managing Calving to coincide with Forage Availability	Management of breeding so that calving occurs during time periods when grazing is available in order to reduce the need for hay and other supplementary feed.
	ANM27	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wildlife Friendly Fencing	Making livestock fencing friendly to wildlife, e.g. using tags to mark barbwire fence making them more visible to wildlife reducing injury and mortality to sage grouse, prairie-chicken and other susceptible birds
	ANM28	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Aquatic Organism Passage Barrier Removal	Removal and/or replacement of in stream barriers to aquatic organism passage and replacement with approved structures to allow passage.
	ANM29		Pasture	Range	Forest	On-farm forage based grazing system	Promote the use of a on-farm forage based grazing system in which all forage is grown on the farm and harvested by livestock through grazing on pastures or feeding of hay harvested on the farm.
	ANM30		Pasture	Range	Forest	Ultra high density grazing system to improve soil quality	Managing pastures using a high density stocking rate to improve forage and soil quality. This requires a fast rotation (less then one day) with a majority of available forage harvested, the remainder would be left or incorporated by livestock tromping.
	ENR01	Crop				Fuel use reduction for field operations	Fuel savings of 20% or greater achieved by a reduction in field operations.
	ENR03	Crop	Pasture	Range		Pumping plant powered by renewable energy	Requires the use of renewable energy—solar or wind – to power pumping plants for irrigation, drainage, livestock, or wildlife.

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	ENR05	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Locally grown and marketed farm products	At least 85% of the nutrients and /or feed needed for crops and/or livestock come from sources within 100 miles of the farm. Products from the farm are retail marketed within 400 miles of the farm.
	ENR06	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Upgrade of Old Diesel Powered Pumping Plants	Upgrading of diesel powered pumping plants with more efficient and cleaner alternatives that closely fit irrigation or livestock water needs.
	ENR07	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On-farm energy audit	Conducting energy audits to evaluate energy use in agricultural production systems and implementing recommendations with a 2 year or less payback. Implementation is required only for findings associated with CSP land uses.
	ENR08	Crop	Pasture			Using nitrogen provided by legumes, animal manure and compost to supply 100% of the nitrogen needs	Reduce energy usage by providing 100% of crop nitrogen needs through the use of legumes, on farm manure or compost and/or management of rotations.
	ENR09	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Variable Frequency Drive Electric Motors	Reducing energy use by incorporating variable speed drives on electric motors for fans, pumps and other motors involved with agricultural production
	PLT01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Establish pollinator habitat	Establish nectar and pollen producing plants in non-cropped areas such as field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, conservation cover, and riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.
	PLT02		Pasture	Range	Forest	Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management	Monitor key grazing areas on pastureland and rangeland to determine if current grazing management meets management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture.
	PLT03				Forest	Forest stand improvement pre-treating vegetation and fuels	Manage vegetation and fuels in a forested area with mechanical/manual methods to facilitate future treatment with prescribed fire to restore native forest condition.
	PLT04				Forest	Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed burning	Prescribed use of fire in a forest to restore native forest conditions with a focus on improving the condition of fire-adapted plants and wildlife habitat and reducing the risk of damage from intense, severe wildfires.
	PLT05	Crop			Forest	Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of nontimber forest plants	Manipulation of forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to achieve or maintain a desired native plant community to facilitate the sustainable management of native non-timber forest plant(s) (e.g., goldenseal, ramps, mushrooms, ginseng, ferns, “sugarbush”, etc.).
	PLT06	Crop	Pasture			Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat	Renovate a windbreak, shelter belt, or hedgerow to add diversity for wildlife habitat. Replace plants threatened by invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer.
	PLT07	Crop			Forest	Hardwood Crop Tree Release	Hardwood Crop Tree Release (CTR) in hardwood stands is a silvicultural technique used to enhance the performance of individual trees, while improving other objectives such as wildlife management, recreation, timber value, and aesthetics.
	PLT08	Crop				Habitat Development for Beneficial Insects for Pest Management	Establishment of habitat to attract and support populations of beneficial insects that provide natural suppress of undesirable insects or other pests. Beneficial insects used for pest management include insect arthropod, predators and parasitoids. Habitat requirements include shelter and food that attract and support beneficial insects. These can include trap crops and insectary strips (both permanent and annual.)
	PLT10		Pasture	Range		Intensive Management of Rotational Grazing	The intensive management of livestock and grazing forages to improve vegetation quality in the pasture and the health of livestock.

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	PLT11				Forest	Conifer Crop Tree Release	A silvicultural technique for western softwood forests used to enhance the performance of individual trees, while improving other objectives such as wildlife management, recreation, timber value, and aesthetics.
	PLT12				Forest	Patch harvesting to improve degraded hardwood stands	Patch Harvesting is a silvicultural practice used to naturally regenerate over-mature and/or degraded hardwood stands while providing added cover and browse for several game and non-game species of wildlife.
	PLT13				Forest	Forest Stand Improvement for Wildfire Reduction	Requiring landowners to approach wildfire management by establishing fire lines (where appropriate and applicable), fuel breaks (where appropriate and applicable), develop an approved fire plan which would include plan to maintain critical access roads, scouting, access control, identification of water sources, critical contacts, training and posting of plans and phone numbers.
	PLT14	Crop			Forest	Alley cropping establishment for wildlife and beneficial insect habitat	Planting trees or shrubs in alternating rows with row crops, forage or horticultural crops in areas between the rows, providing plant diversity, improve soil quality and wildlife habitat.
	SOE01	Crop				Continuous no till with high residue	Utilize continuous no-till/strip till/direct seed in the rotation in combination with high and low residue producing crops or cover crops to maintain a high level of residue cover through critical erosion periods.
	SOE02	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Protection of Cultural Resource	Protect cultural resources by establishing conservation cover on culturally significant sites.
	SOE03	Crop				Continuous No Till Organic System	The use of continuous no-till, strip till or direct seeding method of planting throughout the planned rotation on an organic farm. High residue levels are maintained by including high residue-producing crops, or by low residue crops followed by a cover crop in the rotation. Termination of all cover crops is accomplished using non-chemical methods, such as flail mowing, roller crimper and frost kill. No herbicides are used for weed control.
	SQL01	Crop				Controlled traffic system	Confines heavy traffic from tractor drive wheels/tracks, combine wheels, fertilizer or manure spreaders and grain carts to specific lanes through crop fields year after year.
	SQL02	Crop				Continuous cover crops	Growing continuous seasonal cover crops of grasses, legumes or forbs following all annual crops during all the non-crop production periods of the rotation. Continuous cover cropping is applicable to conventional, specialty and organic crop production systems.
	SQL03	Crop				Drainage water management for nutrient, pathogen, or pesticide reduction	Managing soil and/or surface water levels during the off season to reduce nutrients, pathogens, or pesticides leaving the field through drainage systems and flowing into downstream receiving waters. This enhancement may also be utilized to reduce the oxidation of organic matter in the soil and/or reduce wind erosion or particulate matter (dust) emissions.
	SQL04	Crop				Use of Cover Crop Mixes	Use of cover crop mixes that contain two (2) or more different species of cover crops.
	SQL05	Crop				Use deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction	Use deep rooted crops to break up pans in the soil to improve internal drainage.

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	SQL06	Crop				Conversion of cropped land to grass-based agriculture for biomass or forage production and wildlife habitat	Conversion of cropped land to grass-based agriculture for biomass or forage production and wildlife habitat supports establishment and management of a mixture of high biomass producing perennial species on cropland where annually-seeded cash crops have been grown in monocultures.
	SQL07	Crop			Forest	Forest Stand Improvement for Soil Quality	The management of the forest to improve the soil quality in the forest.
	SQL08	Crop				Intercropping to improve soil quality and increase biodiversity	Growing two or more compatible crops in close proximity to mimic natural ecosystem patterns in capturing the synergies of biodiversity.
	WQL01		Pasture	Range		Biological Suppression and Other Non-chemical Techniques to Manage Brush, weeds and Invasive Species	The reduction of invasive species and/or woody brush using physical and or biological control methods. Physical methods include pulling, hoeing, mowing, mulching or other similar methods. Biological methods include use of natural enemies either introduced or augmented. Use of chemicals is prohibited with this enhancement.
	WQL03		Pasture	Range	Forest	Rotation of supplement and feeding areas	Rotation of Supplementation and Feeding Areas to manage areas of concentrated livestock use to improve livestock distribution and reduce localized areas of disturbances.
	WQL04	Crop				Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management	Use plant tissue tests to adjust nitrogen application rates.
	WQL05	Crop				Apply nutrients no more than 30 days prior to planned planting date	Apply nutrients (fertilizer, manure, etc.) no more than 30 days prior to the planned planting date of the crop.
	WQL06	Crop	Pasture			Apply controlled release nitrogen fertilizer	At least 50% of the pre-emergent and early post emergent nitrogen fertilizer used for crop production must be slow-release or controlled release formulations.
	WQL07	Crop	Pasture			Split nitrogen applications 50% after the crops/pasture emerge/green up	Apply 50% or more of the total nitrogen needs after crop emergence.
	WQL08	Crop				Split applications of nitrogen based on a PSNT or other crop-based indicators	Use of a Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Test (PSNT) to determine the need and/or rate of additional nitrogen to be applied during a sidedress application.
	WQL09	Crop				Apply phosphorus fertilizer below soil surface	Apply all Phosphorus fertilizer at least 3 inches deep and/or as a 2X2 row starter.
	WQL10	Crop				Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen	Plant a cover crop that will scavenge nitrogen left in the soil after the harvest of a previous crop.
	WQL11	Crop	Pasture			Precision application technology to apply nutrients	Use of precision agriculture technologies to apply nutrients to fit the variation in site-specific conditions found within fields.
	WQL12		Pasture	Range	Forest	Managing livestock access to water bodies/courses	Install structures or implement grazing management actions that assist in managing livestock access to water bodies and water courses.
	WQL13	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	High level Integrated Pest Management to reduce pesticide environmental risk	Utilize advanced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression techniques, and only apply the lowest risk pesticides available in an environmentally sound manner when monitoring indicates that an economic pest threshold has been exceeded. Pesticide applications must follow all label requirements.

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	WQL14	Crop	Pasture			Land Application of Treated Manure	Field apply only manure that has been treated to stabilize nutrients and reduce odors and pathogens. Acceptable treatment alternatives are composting, anaerobic digesters or storage in a composting barn.
	WQL15	Crop	Pasture			Reduce the concentration of nutrients on farm by limiting the amount of feed and fertilizer brought on livestock farms	Grow at least 75% of feed for livestock on the farm and use manure from the livestock to supply at least 50% of N, 90% of P and 90% K for crops grown on the farm.
	WQL16	Crop				Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source	Produce at least 70% of the operation's nitrogen needs through the use of cover crops or the utilization of manure.
	WQL17	Crop				Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops	Where cover crops are grown, eliminate herbicide use by using a roller crimper to kill the cover crop or use a cool season crop that will die back naturally as summer crops grow.
	WQL18		Pasture	Range	Forest	Non- Chemical Pest Management for Livestock	Non-chemical Livestock Pest Management addresses control of external pests and internal parasites of livestock without using chemical pesticides. Control techniques include grazing management, use of beneficial plants, other biological control methods and mechanical control devices such as vacuums and traps. Monitoring of both pest levels and effectiveness of management application is an integral part of this enhancement. All techniques also address the necessary basic considerations to reduce the life cycle opportunities of the target pest(s).
	WQL19		Pasture	Range	Forest	Transition to Organic Grazing Systems	Transition to Organic Grazing Systems supports the conversion of a conventional to an organic livestock grazing system.
	WQL20	Crop				Transition to Organic Cropping Systems	Transition to Organic Cropping Systems supports the conversion of a conventional to an organic cropping system. Key to the enhancement is the inclusion of management activities that improve soil and water quality in a "Organic System Plan" that adheres to the National Organic Program (NOP) 205.201 criteria.
	WQL21	Crop	Pasture	Range		Integrated Pest Management for Organic Farming.	Managing pests on an organic farm, including farms transitioning to organic, with a high level Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system that is based on an understanding of pest ecology. This system utilizes the IPM principles of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression, while excluding the use of synthetic pesticides.
	WQL22	Crop	Pasture			On Farm Composting of Farm Organic Waste	The composting of all organic waste produced on a farm such as manure, livestock mortality and crop residues removed from the field.
	WQL23		Pasture	Range		Protection of sensitive areas on winter grazing land	Grazing management activities that remove livestock from environmentally sensitive areas on winter pastures by providing shelter away from these areas.
	WQT01	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation system automation	Using GPS guided variable rate irrigation or other innovative technologies that allow irrigation water application based on variable site conditions within a field.
	WQT02	Crop				Mulching for moisture conservation	Using plastic or fiber mulch to reduce irrigation evaporation losses from bare soil surfaces.
	WQT03	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation pumping plant evaluation	Evaluate existing pumping plant and identify and implement maintenance items needed to improve efficiency.
	WQT04	Crop	Pasture			Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling	Use data from a regional weather network to improve irrigation scheduling.

Conservation Stewardship Program
Conservation Activity List

	WQT05	Crop	Pasture			Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation	A system for monitoring the status of an irrigation pumping plant and notifying the operator by a wireless connection of a change in the operation status of the irrigation system.
	WQT06	Crop	Pasture			Conversion to Non-Irrigated Crop Production	The conversion of land that has been irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years to crops or pasture production that does not require irrigation.
Conservation Bundles that interest you	**NRCS Code**	**Eligible Land Use**				**Bundle Name**	**Bundle Criteria**
	BCR01	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #1	This bundle of enhancements consists of using precision techniques to apply nutrients and pesticides while widening buffers to protect non-cropped areas. Includes AIR04, AIR07, WQL11, WQL13 and one of the buffer widening enhancements.
	BCR02	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #2	This bundle of enhancements includes activities to reduce inputs while improving the soil and water quality and benefiting pollinators or other beneficial insects. Includes ENR05, WQL16, SQL02, WQL13 and PLT01 or PLT08
	BCR03	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #3	This bundle of enhancements includes activities to reduce inputs of energy, pesticides and nutrients while protecting non-cropped areas by widening buffers. Includes SOE01, WQL07, WQL10, WQL13 one of buffer widening enhancements.
	BCR04	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #4	This enhancement consist of activities that address resource concerns in orchards and vineyards. Includes AIR03, AIR04, PLT01, SQL02 and WQL13.
	BCR05	Crop				Crop Technology Bundle #5	This enhancement consist of activites to improve wildlife habitat on cropland and adjacent areas. Includes ANM08, ANM12, SQL04, WQL13 or WQL21 and one of the four buffer enhancements.
	BFO01				Forest	SE Pine Forest Bundle # 1	This enhancement consists of treating SE pine forest with prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat and forest production. Includes ANM15, PLT03, PLT04, ANM24 and ANM22.
	BFO02				Forest	Forest Bundle # 2	This enhancement includes activities to improve wildlife habitat on increase forest productivity. Includes ANM15, PLT07, ANM14, ANM24 and ANM22.
	BFO03				Forest	Forest Bundle # 3	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that reduce wildfire potential while improving wildlife habitat and soil quality. Includes ANM14, ANM15, PLT11, PLT13 and SQL07
	BFO04				Forest	Forest Bundle # 4	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that increases wildlife habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) while reducing wildfire potential and improve soil quality. Includes ANM11, ANM15, ANM24, PLT13 and SQL07
	BFO05				Forest	Forest Bundle # 5	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that increase diversity of non-timber plants while reducing wildfire risk, improving soil quality and reducing energy consumption. Includes ANM14, ENR05, PLT13, PLT05 and SQL07

Conservation Stewardship Program
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	BPA01		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 1	This enhancement bundle consists of activities to improve the forage base while protecting water quality and protecting wildlife. Includes ANM03, WQL03, WQL12, ANM09 and PLT02.
	BPA02		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 2	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that will improve wildlife habitat by reducing the impact of pasture management activities using IPM and non-chemical controls to control pest and diseases while improving vegetation beneficial to both livestock and wildlife. Includes ANM03, ANM06, ANM09, WQL01, and WQL18
	BPA03		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 3	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that reduce energy use on pasture acres. Includes AIR07, ANM03, ENR03, ENR05 and WQL13.
	BPA04		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 4	This enhancement bundle consists of activities to improve forage utilization for a longer period of the growing season while saving energy, protecting water quality and improving soil. Includes ANM25, ANM26, PLT10, WQL03 and WQL15
	BPA05		Pasture			Pasture Grazing Bundle # 5	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that address all aspects of pasture management pest, nutrient and improve forage quality while improving wildlife access to water. Includes AIR04, ANM03, ANM18, PLT02, and WQL07
	BRA01			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 1	This enhancement bundle consists of activities to improve range management while protecting water quality and protecting wildlife. Includes PLT02, WQL12, ANM18 or ANM11, ANM09, and WQL03.
	BRA02			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 2	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that increase wildlife habitat and water quality. Includes ANM19, PLT02, WQL12, ANM05 or ANM06 and ANM13 or ANM14
	BRA03			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 3	This enhancement bundle consist of activities that aid in the restoration of plant communities, increase wildlife habitat and monitor the impact of grazing. Includes ANM09, ANM11, ANM21, ANM22 and PLT02
	BRA04			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 4	This enhanecment consist of activities that focus on improving habitat by reducing wildlife mortality range plant communities, while saving energy. Includes ANM18, ANM27, ENR03, PLT02, and WQL01
	BRA05			Range		Range Grazing Bundle # 5	This enhancement consist of activities that address multiple resource concerns on rangeland, e.g. forage quality, control of undesirable plants and improved wildlife habitat. Includes ANM09, ANM26, WQL01, WQL03 and WQL13
Supplemental Payment Activity	**NRCS Code**	**Eligible Land Use**				**Supplemental Payment Activity**	**Activity Criteria**
	CCR99	Crop				Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation	The rotation shall cover at least 3 years of the CSP contract. The rotation is considered adopted when the resource conserving crop is planted on at least 1/3 of the rotation acres. The resource conserving crop must be adopted by the third year of the contract and planted on all rotation acres by the fifth year of the contract.

Conservation Stewardship Program
Conservation Activity List

Special Projects	NRCS Code	Eligible Land Use				Special Project Activity	Special Project Criteria
	FRD01	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On Farm Research and Demonstration	On farm research and demonstration consists of the implementation of applied research projects on working farms to gather information and demonstrate the efficacy of the activity. The projects must fit within identified state priority topic areas.
	FPP02	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	On Farm Pilot Project	On farm pilots consist of the installation, monitoring and publicizing of projects that fit within the identified state priority areas. Pilots should be practices, components, or management techniques that have shown environmental benefits through research but are not used by farmers in the project area. Practices, components, or management techniques must be implemented, monitored and publicized according protocols developed specifically for the project.
Conservation practices that interest you	**Code**	**Eligible Land Use**				**Practice Name**	**Practice Definition**
	314	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Brush Management	Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants on rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture, hayland and forest lands where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.
	328	Crop				Conservation Crop Rotation	Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field to control erosion, improve soil organic matter, balance nutrients, improve water use efficiency, manage saline seeps, manage pests and/or provide food and cover for wildlife
	329	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting soil-disturbing activities to only those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.
	338		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Burning	Controlled fire applied to a predetermined areas to maintain or enhance fire dependent ecologies.
	340	Crop				Cover Crop	The planting of crops such as grasses, legumes and forbs to provide seasonal cover that will reduce erosion, improve soil organic matter, promote efficient nutrient cycling, fix nitrogen in the soil, suppress weeds, increase biodiversity and/or provide food and cover for wildlife.
	342	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Critical Area Planting	Establishment of permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.
	344	Crop				Residue Management, Seasonal	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface during a specified period of the year, while planting annual crops on a clean-tilled seedbed, or when growing biennial or perennial seed crops.
	345	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow crops in systems where the entire field surface is tilled prior to planting.
	346	Crop				Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops on pre-formed ridges alternated with furrows protected by crop residue.

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	380	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations to reduce surface wind speeds in order to control wind erosion, manage snow deposition, reduce the spread of odors, reduce pesticide spray drift and/or provide wildlife food and cover.
	383		Pasture	Range	Forest	Fuelbreak	A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.
	384				Forest	Forest Slash Treatment	Treating woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities to reduce fire hazards, insect infestations and/or improve the site for natural regeneration.
	386	Crop				Field Border	A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field to provide a buffer between cropland and non-cropped areas to reduce cropland impacts and provide wildlife food and cover.
	390	Crop	Pasture	Range		Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Grasses, grass-like plants and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	391	Crop	Pasture			Riparian Forest Buffer	An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide a buffer between agricultural areas and riparian areas and to enhance riparian zone functions.
	393	Crop				Filter Strip	A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation established on cropland that removes contaminants from overland flow.
	394		Pasture	Range	Forest	Firebreak	A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land established to retard the movement of fire.
	395	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Stream Habitat Improve/Mgmt	Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.
	449	Crop	Pasture			Irrigation Water Management	The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner.
	511	Crop	Pasture			Forage Harvest Management	The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage.
	512	Crop	Pasture			Pasture and Hay Planting	Establishing native or introduced forage species.
	528		Pasture	Range	Forest	Prescribed Grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals in order to enhance or maintain good forage production and provide wildllfire food and cover.
	550			Range		Range Planting	Establishment of adapted perennial vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees in order to establish a function range ecology.
	612	Crop			Forest	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

Conservation Stewardship Program
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	643	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	Restoring and managing rare and declining habitats and their associated wildlife species to conserve biodiversity.
	644	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.
	645	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.
	647	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	Manage early plant succession to benefit desired wildlife or natural communities by increasing plant community diversity.
	650	Crop	Pasture	Range		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Replacing, releasing and/or removing selected trees and shrubs or rows within an existing windbreak or shelterbelt, adding rows to the windbreak or shelterbelt or removing selected tree and shrub branches.
	654	Crop			Forest	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to enhance forest functions.
	655	Crop			Forest	Forest Trails & Landings	A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area within a forest established to provide access to the forest while limiting damage to the forest.
	660	Crop			Forest	Tree/Shrub Pruning	The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs to improve forest health and functions.
	666	Crop			Forest	Forest Stand Improvement	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation to enhance forest health and functions.
For more information to each enhancement visit our website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or contact your local NRCS office.							

NRCS-CPA-1200
OMB 0578-0013 expiration 5/31/2012

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	**Application Number:**
Address:	**Application Date:** **County and State:**
Telephone:	**Watershed:** **Subaccount:**
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

(Please note that not all questions apply to all Programs)

1. This is an application to participate in the:

❑ **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**	❑ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
✔ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**	❑ **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
❑ **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)**	❑ **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)**

2. ❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** **Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?**

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

❑ **Individual**

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:
Name: **Tax Number:**

❑ **Entity** (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:
Name: **Tax Number:**

b) ❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

❑ **Joint Operation** (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:
Name: **Tax Number:**

b) ❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

4. A Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database are required for receiving payment under an EIN. *If you do not have a number, information is available at* http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do

DUNS Number:

5. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop or livestock production?

- ❑ **Crop Production** **Crop Type:**
- ❑ **Livestock Production** **Livestock Type:**

6. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):

- ❑ **Private Land**
- ❑ **Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)**
- ❑ **Tribal, Alloted, Ceded or Indian Land**

7. Certification of control of the land offered under the application:

- ❑ **Deed or other evidence of land ownership**
- ❑ **Written lease agreement**
  Years of control are through
- ❑ **Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):**
  Years of control are through

8. ❑ Yes ❑ No Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?

9. Are you applying for program benefits as one of the following participant types?

- ❑ **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher**
- ❑ **Beginning Farmer or Rancher**
- ❑ **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher**

If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. For more information please go to this website: http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/

10. ❑ Yes ❑ No If applying for the EQIP and if the application includes irrigation practices, has the land been irrigated at least 2 of the last 5 years?

11. ❑ Yes ❑ No If applying for the EQIP, are you engaged in livestock or agricultural production, and have you produced at least $1000 of agricultural products in a year?

(Forest agricultural producers may select yes as they are exempt from the $1,000 requirement)

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned person shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will obtain the landowner's signature on the contract or provide written authorization to install structural practices.

The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify eligibility as a Farmer or Rancher under the Limited Resource, Beginning, or Socially Disadvantaged groups will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency.

12. ❑ Yes ❑ No I have received a copy of the program appendix where an appendix is applicable.

Applicant Signature	Date

PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0578-0013. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a). This information is used to track contract or agreement progress. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR 630 (Long Term Contracting); 7 CFR 1410 (CRP); 7 CFR 631 and 702 (IEQIP); 7 CFR 636 (WHIP); 7 CFR 622 (WPFPP); 7 CFR 1465 (AMA); 7 CFR 1469 (CSP); 7 CFR 625 (HFR); 7 CFR 1494 (FRPP); and 7 CFR 1467 (WRP). Furnishing information is voluntary and will be confidential; however, it is necessary in order to receive assistance.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

APPENDIX TO FORM NRCS-CPA-1202 CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACT
For
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

1 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A The Participant must complete and file Form AD-1026 (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification) and meet the requirements set forth therein, in accordance with the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. By signing this Conservation Program Contract (Contract), the Participant certifies that the Participant has completed and filed the AD-1026 and meets the requirements set forth in the Highly Erodible Land Conservation-Wetland Conservation (HELC-WC) provisions.

B The Participant must meet the requirements of, complete and file Form CCC-926 (Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification). By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant has met the requirements of, completed and filed Form CCC-926. A person or legal entity shall not be eligible to receive any benefit during a crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, if the average adjusted gross non-farm income of the person or legal entity exceeds $1,000,000, unless not less than 66.66 percent of the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity is average adjusted gross farm income. The amount of any payment or benefit shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect ownership interest in the entity of each person who has an average adjusted gross income, average adjusted gross farm income, or average adjusted gross non-farm income in excess of the applicable limitation specified. This limitation may be waived on a case-by-case basis by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief as allowed by the authorizing legislation.

C The Participant must complete and file Form CCC-901 (Member's Information), or its equivalent, if the Participant represents a business classified as a legal entity or joint operation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under 7 CFR part 1400.

D At Least one Participant must be the operator of record in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm records management system for the agricultural operation being offered for enrollment in the program and have effective control of the land for this Contract period. By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant has included in the Contract all eligible land and will control the land subject to this Contract for the term of this Contract and shall, upon request, provide evidence to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) demonstrating that such Participant will control the land for that period. NRCS may grant exceptions to this "operator of record" requirement for producers, tenants and owners in the FSA farm records management system that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that they will operate and have effective control of the land for the term of this contract. Where applicable, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the NRCS will determine Tribal land eligibility.

E The Participant shall not be eligible for Contract payments for any of the following: (1) practices that are required to meet HELC and WC compliance requirements found in 7 CFR part 12; (2) new conservation activities applied with financial assistance through any other USDA conservation program; (3) the design, construction, or maintenance of animal waste storage or treatment facilities or associated waste transport devices for animal feeding operations; and (4) conservation activities for which there is no cost incurred or income forgone by the participant.

F Land used for crop production after June 18, 2008 that had not been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years preceding this date shall not be eligible for any payment under the program, unless the land does not meet the requirement because: (1) the land had previously been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program; (2) the land has been maintained using long-term crop rotation practices, as determined by CCC; or (3) the land is incidental land needed for efficient operation of the farm or ranch, as determined by CCC.

G Land otherwise eligible for the covered conservation program shall not be eligible if the land is publically owned (including land owned by a Federal, State, or local unit of government) if the land is enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve Program, or is subject to a deed or other legal restriction prohibiting the application of the conservation plan and associated conservation activities, or where a benefit has or will be obtained from a Federal, or State agency (including political subdivisions and entities thereof) in return for the Participant's agreement not to implement the conservation plan and associated conservation activities on the land during the same time as the land would be enrolled in this Contract. By applying for the program Contract, the Participant certifies as a condition for payment that no such restrictions apply to the subject land.

H The Participant is responsible for obtaining the authorities, permits, easements, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A Participant must comply with all laws and is responsible for all effects or actions resulting from the Participant's performance under this Contract.

2 OFFERS FROM APPLICANTS

Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Contract Application, and this NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix) represent a request to enter into the program under the terms specified in this Contract.

3 AGREEMENT

The Participant agrees to:

(1) Place all eligible land under their effective control into the program for the period of time as specified on Form NRCS-CPA-1202 beginning on the date this Contract is executed by CCC;

(2) Not start any new financially assisted conservation activity before this Contract is executed by CCC unless a waiver is approved by NRCS. The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted conservation activity by the NRCS State Conservationist (STC), or designee;

(3) Schedule, install and adopt at least one enhancement within the first fiscal year after this Contract is signed by NRCS.

(4) Complete all scheduled enhancements by the end of the third fiscal year of the Contract;

(5) Maintain for the life of the Contract at least the level of existing conservation performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract.

(6) Install and adopt, to NRCS requirements, conservation activities described in this Contract as scheduled, to operate and maintain these conservation activities for the intended purpose and life span identified in this Contract, and to comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract and all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws. In cases where the land is transferred to new ownership during the contract period, the Participant must also ensure these responsibilities are transferred to subsequent owners;

(7) Notify NRCS within 60 days of the transfer of interest to an eligible transferee who accepts the contract's terms and conditions by completing the Transfer Agreement, Form NRCS-CPA-152, or the Contract will be terminated;

(8) Share responsibility for ensuring that Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, is accurate and complete. NRCS has no authority to compensate participants for conservation activities that are not in the Contract at the time of obligation;

(9) Not undertake any action on land under the Participant's effective control which tends to defeat the purposes of the program, as determined by CCC;

(10) Discontinue work in the general area of the site and notify NRCS immediately if during the construction of any conservation activity a previously unidentified endangered species, archeological, or historical site is encountered;

(11) Provide records and receipts, as necessary, as proof of completion and payments, and to maintain documentation for three (3) years after the end of the Federal fiscal year in which the conservation activity was completed, and to present this documentation to CCC within 30 days if selected for administrative compliance check;

(12) Allow access to the land under Contract to the CCC representative or their agent, including Technical Service Providers representing NRCS, for monitoring progress on this Contract;

(13) Supply records and information as required by CCC to determine compliance with the Contract and requirements of the program within 30 days of request; and

(14) Accept applicable program payment limits: The Participant, defined as a person or legal entity hereby agrees that the total amount of all CSP payments received, directly or indirectly, do not in the aggregate exceed $40,000 during any fiscal year and $200,000 for all CSP Contracts entered into during any 5-year period, excluding federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations, regardless of the number of Contracts entered into under the CSP by the person or legal entity. Each conservation stewardship contract with a person or legal entity will be limited to $40,000 per fiscal year and $200,000 over the term of the initial contract period. Each conservation stewardship contract with a joint operation will be limited to $80,000 per fiscal year and $400,000 over the term of the initial contract period. Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native corporations are excluded from contract limits. Payments received in excess of these limits are subject to refund.

(15) Notify NRCS within 30 days or less as required, of Contract acres accepted for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program or other Federal or State programs that offer greater natural resource protection in order to allow those acres to be removed from the Contract. Participants will not be subject to liquidated damages or refund of payments received for enrolling land in these programs. However, this action will require an evaluation to determine whether CSP requirements will continue to be met after removal of the acres from contract, and may warrant termination of the Contract.

4 CONSERVATION PLAN

By signing the Contract, the Participant agrees:

(1) That the ProTracts NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, the Customer Service Toolkit Conservation Plan document and all supporting job sheets and attachments including but not limited to the Conservation Measurement Tool Conservation Performance Summary Report are hereby incorporated as a part of the Contract; and

(2) To install, adopt, and maintain the conservation activities as identified and scheduled on the Contract as described above and in compliance with Paragraph 6 of this Appendix—Operation and Maintenance of Conservation Activities.

5 PAYMENTS

A Subject to the availability of funds, CCC will make payments at the rate and amount specified in this Contract, with consideration to person or legal entity payment limits as described in 5B, after a determination by CCC that conservation activities have been installed and maintained in compliance with the conservation plan, and in accordance with appropriate standards and specifications or job sheets. In order to receive payments, the Participant, upon technical certification of the completed conservation activity, must execute and file with CCC a Form NRCS-CPA-1245, Practice Approval and Payment Application, along with any receipts and supporting documentation, as necessary.

B Person or legal entity or joint operation payment limitations are verified at the time of payment certification, Payment amounts may change at payment certification to enforce the direct and indirect payment limitations in 3(15).

C NRCS will provide annual payments to compensate a participant for installing and adopting additional conservation activities as scheduled in the conservation plan and for maintaining existing activities to at least the level of performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract. A participant's annual payments will be determined using the conservation performance estimated by the conservation measurement tool and computed by land use. NRCS may provide a supplemental payment for adopting a resource conserving crop rotation on cropland to a participant receiving annual payments. Payments will be issued based on the unit rate and the land use as documented on Form NRCS-CPA-1245. Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Plan/Schedule of Operations and Form NRCS-CPA-1156, Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract. NRCS may make a minimum contract payment of $1,000 to participants who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or limited resource farmers or ranchers in any fiscal year that a contract's payment amount total is less than $1,000, as determined at the time of contract obligation. Minimum contract payments will not be applied to a contract for newly acquired land that is part of an operation which is under an active conservation stewardship contract.

D All payments received as part of a Contract are reported to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For information related to tax liabilities, consult with a tax accountant or refer to IRS publication 225, Farmers Tax Guide.

E Payments will only be issued for conservation activities that meet or exceed the standards described in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide or applicable job sheets.

F Collection of amounts due from a Participant for improper payment or any other reason will follow procedures of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. NRCS will notify the Participant to identify the reason for the collection and the amount owed. Based on this notification, a bill will be entered into the National Finance Center's IBIL (Internet Billing). Unpaid bills accrue interest beginning 30 days after the billing date at the current value of funds rate published in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Treasury.

G Any Participant that will receive financial benefit from the implementation of this Contract must be a signatory on the Contract. Unless signature authority is not granted or assigned on the Contract, any Participant on the Contract may approve payment applications for the Contract.

H Any payment that has or will be received through another USDA program or from other sources must be disclosed to the NRCS Approving Official at the time a payment application is filed. NRCS may reduce payments to account for the funds received from other sources.

I If a Participant receiving a Contract payment is indebted to another Federal agency and the outstanding debt has been referred to the Treasury Offset Payment System, the Contract payment due the Participant will be reduced by

Treasury for the amount owed the U.S. Government. The Participant will not be notified by NRCS that a payment offset has occurred and NRCS records will reflect full Contract payment to the Participant.

6 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES (O&M Agreement)

A The Participant agrees to the operation and maintenance (O&M) of all conservation activities included within this Contract. These conservation activities shall be operated and maintained for the practice lifespan as listed on Form NRCS-CPA-1155, Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, and any subsequent conservation activities resulting from revisions on Form NRCS-CPA-1156, Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract. This requirement also extends to those conservation activities installed before Contract execution, but included in the Contract to obtain the conservation performance level agreed upon in the ranking process and the conservation performance summary report. The participant will operate and maintain existing conservation activities to a least the level of conservation performance identified at the time the application is obligated into a contract for the Contract period and operate and maintain additional activities which are installed and adopted over the term of the Contract.

B The term O&M as used in the Contract shall collectively include:

- **Operation:** The administration, management, and performance of non-maintenance activities necessary to keep a conservation activity safe and functioning as planned;

- **Maintenance:** The recurring activities necessary to retain or restore a conservation activity in a safe and functioning condition, including, but not limited to, the management of vegetation, the repair or replacement of failed components or conservation activity, the prevention or treatment of deterioration, and the repair of damages caused by vandalism or negligence, but excluding damage caused by a local, state or nationally recognized natural disaster;

- **Repair:** The actions to return a deteriorated, damaged, abandoned, or failed conservation activity and/or component to an acceptable and functional condition; and

- **Replacement:** The removal of a conservation activity or component and installation of a similar, functional conservation activity or component.

C The Participant is responsible for the O&M responsibilities and acknowledges that these activities may require labor, funds, and management in order to ensure the appropriate program purposes are met.

D The Participant's O&M responsibilities begin when the conservation activity installation is completed, as determined by NRCS, and shall continue through the end of the practice lifespan.

E The Participant acknowledges that the “practice lifespan” is the time period in which the conservation practices are to be used and maintained for their intended purposes as defined by NRCS technical references and documented on either Forms NRCS-CPA-1155 or NRCS-CPA-1156.

F Specific O&M requirements for conservation activities covered within this Contract are defined in the conservation practice standard and are documented within the conservation plan narrative, Contract provision, and/or job sheet.

G The Participant acknowledges that conservation activities installed before the Contract execution, but included in the Contract to obtain the environmental benefits agreed upon within the application ranking process and the conservation performance summary report, must be operated and maintained as specified in the Contract and within this paragraph.

H The Participant agrees to the O&M requirements as listed within this Paragraph (6) and failure to carry-out the terms and conditions listed may result in CCC termination of this Contract. (Refer to Paragraph 11 of this Appendix—Contract Termination).

7 PROVISIONS RELATING TO TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

No payment will be approved for the current year if CCC determines that any of the following conditions exist:

(1) The landlord or operator has not given the tenants that have an interest in the agricultural operation covered by the Contract, or that have a lease that runs through the Contract term at the time of sign-up, an opportunity to participate in the benefits of the program.

(2) The landlord or operator has adopted any other scheme or device for the purpose of depriving any tenant of any benefits to which such tenant would otherwise be entitled. If any such conditions occur or are discovered after payments have been made, all or any part of the payments, as determined by CCC, must be refunded according to Paragraph 5F of this Appendix and no further payments shall be made.

8 MISREPRESENTATION AND SCHEME OR DEVICE

A NRCS shall immediately request investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in cases where a participant is suspected of, or when NRCS has determined that the participant knowingly, (1) adopted any scheme or device that tends to defeat the purpose of the program; (2) made any fraudulent representation; or (3) misrepresented and fact affecting a program determination.

B A Participant who is determined to have erroneously represented any fact affecting a determination with respect to this Contract and the regulations applicable to this Contract, adopted any scheme or device which tends to defeat the purposes of this Contract, or made any fraudulent representation with respect to this Contract, will not be entitled to payments or any other benefits made under this Contract. The Participant must refund to CCC all payments received plus interest. In addition, CCC will terminate the Participant’s interest in all Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.

C CCC will charge interest on monies it determines to be due and owing to CCC under this Contract. Under debt collection procedures, unpaid bills accrue interest beginning 30 days after the billing date. The interest rate will be determined using the current value of funds rate, published annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Treasury.

D The provisions of Paragraph 8B of this Appendix shall be applicable in addition to any other criminal and civil fraud statutes.

9 CHANGES TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS CONTRACT

A If any changes to the terms and conditions of this Contract become necessary prior to the date that this Contract is approved on behalf of CCC, CCC will notify, in writing, the Applicant that signed Form NRCS-CPA-1202 of such change and such person(s) will be given 10 days from the date of notification in which to agree to the revised terms and conditions or to withdraw from this Contract request. The Applicant agrees to notify, in writing, the CCC of an intention to withdraw the program participation request within 10 days from the date of the issuance of such notice and further agrees that failure to notify the CCC will constitute agreement to the revised terms and conditions.

B CCC may unilaterally modify this Contract when the installed conservation activity would cause adverse impacts to significant cultural and/or environmental resources without mitigation action.

C The Participant and CCC may modify this Contract by mutual agreement when:

(1) Both the Participant and the appropriate approving authority (STC or designated conservationist) agree to this modification;

(2) At the request of the Participant, and upon approval of CCC, the modification is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(3) A transfer of this Contract occurs, provided CCC approval is obtained, and an eligible transferee accepts all terms and responsibilities under this Contract including operation and maintenance of those conservation activities already installed or to be installed.

D The Participant and CCC may agree to revise the schedule of operations to substitute enhancements scheduled for implementation, provided that such revisions are within the general scope of this Contract and the resulting conservation performance, by land use is equal to or greater than the conservation performance of the current contract. Any such changes that would cause an increase in the cost of performance of any part of the work under the Contract, the authorized CCC official will not make an adjustment in the total contract payment. Contract modifications will not increase the financial obligations or provide for payments over and above the amount as specified in the current contract, with exception for contract renewals or other exceptional cases as approved by NRCS.

E All modifications that require CCC approval processed through Paragraph 9 of this Appendix must be approved in writing by the authorized CCC official and the Participant or an individual granted signature authority through a valid Power of Attorney filed in the local Service Center. Unless signature authority is not granted or assigned on the Contract, any Participant on the Contract may approve modifications for the Contract.

10 CORRECTIONS

CCC reserves the right to correct all errors in entering data or the results of computations in this Contract.

11 CONTRACT TERMINATION

A If a Participant fails to carry-out the terms and conditions of this Contract, CCC may terminate this Contract. CCC may require the Participant to refund payments received under this Contract, or require the Participant to accept such adjustments in subsequent payments as are determined to be appropriate by CCC. Refunds shall be subject to the provisions in Paragraph 5F of this Appendix.

B The CCC may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, without liability, if CCC determines that continued operation of this Contract will result in the violation of a Federal statute or regulation, if CCC determines that termination would be in the public interest, or to remove contract acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve Program or other Federal or State programs that offer greater natural resource protection.

C A participant shall not be considered in violation of the Contract for failure to comply with the Contract due to circumstances beyond the control of the participant, including a disaster of related condition, as determined by the CCC.

12 RECOVERY OF COST

A In the event a Participant violates the terms of this Contract, the Participant voluntarily terminates this Contract before any contractual payments have been made, or this Contract is terminated with cause by CCC, the CCC will incur substantial costs in administering this Contract which may not be possible to quantify with certainty. Therefore, in addition to the refund of payments as set forth in Paragraph 11 of this Appendix, the Participant agrees to pay liquidated damages in an amount equal to 10 percent of the total financial assistance obligated to the Participant in this Contract, at the time of termination. This liquidated damages payment is for recovery of administrative and technical services and is not a penalty.

B The Participant may be required by the CCC to refund all or a portion of any assistance earned under the program if the Participant sells or loses control of the land under this Contract and the new owner or transferee is not eligible for the program, or refuses to assume responsibility under the Contract.

13 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Contract is effective when signed by the Participant and an authorized representative of CCC and continues through the expiration date printed on the NRCS-CPA-1202. Except as otherwise provided for herein, this Contract may not be terminated or modified unless by mutual agreement between the parties.
Within the dates established by CCC, this Contract must be signed by all required Participants. In the event that a statute is enacted during the period of this Contract which would materially change the terms and conditions of this Contract, the CCC may require the Participant to elect between modifying this Contract consistent with the provisions of such statute or Contract termination.

14 GENERAL TERMS

A The regulations in 7 CFR part 1470, and any other applicable regulations are incorporated, by reference, herein. In the event of a conflict between these regulations and the terms of this Appendix, the provisions of the regulations will prevail.

B This Contract shall be carried out in accordance with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations. Any ambiguities in this Contract and questions as to the validity of any of its specific provisions shall be resolved in favor of CCC so as to give maximum effect to the conservation purposes of this Contract.

C NRCS is administering this Contract on behalf of the CCC. Therefore, where this Contract refers to "CCC", NRCS may act on its behalf for the purposes of administering this Contract. When the term "Participant" is used in this Contract, it shall be construed to mean all Participants signing this Contract. Likewise, when the term "Applicant" is used in this Contract, it means all Applicants signing the program application.

D Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions (7 CFR part 3017).

(1) The Participant certifies to the best of the Participant’s knowledge and belief, that the Participant and his or her principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within the three-year period preceding this agreement had a criminal conviction or civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local government) contract, including violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by

a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses set forth above in Paragraph 14D(1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within the three-year period preceding this agreement had one or more public contracts (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) If the Participant is unable to certify to any of the statements set forth in paragraph 14D (1), the Participant shall attach an explanation to this agreement.

E This Contract is a financial assistance agreement, not a procurement contract. As such, it is **not subject to 5 CFR part 1315, Prompt Payment Act** and is governed by the terms set forth herein.

F The term “Contract” as used in this Appendix means the program documents, including: Conservation Program Contract, Form NRCS-CPA-1202 along with the—

- Appendix to Form NRCS-CPA-1202, Form NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix);
- Conservation Plan Schedule of Operations, Form NRCS-CPA-1155;
- Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract, Form NRCS-CPA-1156; and
- Transfer Agreement, form NRCS-CPA-152 for the transferee(s).
- Other supporting documents as set forth above in Paragraph 4(1).

Such Contract shall set forth the terms and conditions for Conservation Program participation and receipt of Conservation Program payments.

G The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

H “Indian Tribe” means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Note: “Indian tribes recognized as eligible to receive services by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs” is available at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19124.pdf

I A Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at:
http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Participants who self-certify eligibility as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher may be requested to provide records to justify their claim. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

J A Beginning Farmer or Rancher is a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and who
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the conservation activities in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

Participants who self-certify eligibility as a Beginner Farmer or Rancher may be requested to provide records to justify their claim. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide accurate data. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

K The term ”Agricultural Operation” as used in this Appendix includes the Nonindustrial Private Forest Land component of the operation.

L The term “conservation activities” as used in the Appendix means conservation systems, enhancements, conservation practices, or management measures needed to address a resource concern or improve environmental quality through the treatment of natural resources.

M The term “conservation measurement tool” as used in this Appendix means procedures developed by NRCS to estimate the existing and proposed conservation performance to be achieved by a participant.

15 RIGHTS TO APPEAL AND REQUEST EQUITABLE RELIEF

A The Participant may appeal an adverse decision under this Contract in accordance with the appeal procedures set forth at 7 CFR part 11, Subpart A, and part 614. Pending the resolution of an appeal, no payments shall be made under this agreement. Before a Participant seeks judicial review, the Participant must exhaust all appeal rights granted within these regulations.

B The Participant may also request equitable relief as provided under 7 U.S.C. 7996 and 7 CFR part 635 with the requirements of that provision.

16 EXAMINATION OF RECORDS

A The Participant agrees to give the CCC or the Comptroller General, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to this Contract. The Participant agrees to retain all records related to this agreement for a period of three (3) years after completion of the terms of this agreement in accordance with the applicable Office of Management and Budget circular.

B The Participant authorizes CCC to obtain tax data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for Adjusted Gross Income compliance verification purposes and the Participant will take all necessary actions required by the terms and conditions of the IRS disclosure laws so that CCC can obtain such data.

17 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (7 CFR part 3021)

By signing this Contract, the Participant certifies that the Participant will comply with the requirements of 7 CFR part 3021. If it is later determined that the Participant knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.; 7 CFR part 3021,) CCC, in addition to any other remedies available to the United States, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

18 CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING (7 CFR part 3018) (Applicable if this agreement exceeds $100,000)

The Participant certifies, to the best of the Participant’s knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Participant, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress, in connection with this

Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

(3) The Participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including sub contracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

19 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (See generally 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019)

A As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders and other generally applicable requirements, including those set out in 7 CFR 3115.205(b) applicable to non-profit institutions, which are hereby incorporated into this Contract by reference, and such other regulatory and statutory provisions as are specifically set forth herein.

B Without limiting the general applicability of Paragraph 19A, the Participant, if it is a non-profit, further agrees to comply with the provisions of 7 CFR part 3019, including the contract provisions required at Appendix A.

20 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABLITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT IMPLEMENTATION (See 2 CFR part 25 and 2 CFR Part 170)

A As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all requirements for applicants other than individuals, with some specific exceptions, to have Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers and maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database as set out in Appendix A to Part 25.

B As a condition of this Contract, the Participant certifies and assures that it is in compliance with and will comply in the course of the agreement with all requirements for applicants other than individuals, with some exception to report first-tier sub awards to an entity and executive salary compensation as set out in Appendix A to Part 170.

The following Participants by entering their signature acknowledge receipt of this Form NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC (Appendix) and agree to its terms and conditions thereof. Further, if the undersigned are succeeding to an existing Contract, the undersigned agree and certify that no agreement exists or will be entered into between the undersigned, the previous owner and operator of the property, or mortgage holder that would, maintain or create an interest in the property for any previous Participant on this Contract for that property, or to receive payments under the contracts.

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

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_____ Date _____

Standard Form 1199A
(Rev. June 1987)
Prescribed by Treasury Department
Treasury Dept. Cir. 1076

OMB No. **1510-0007**

DIRECT DEPOSIT SIGN-UP FORM

DIRECTIONS

- To sign up for Direct Deposit, the payee is to read the back of this form and fill in the information requested in Sections 1 and 2. Then take or mail this form to the financial institution. The financial institution will verify the information in Sections 1 and 2, and will complete Section 3. The completed form will be returned to the Government agency identified below.
- A separate form must be completed for each type of payment to be sent by Direct Deposit.
- The claim number and type of payment are printed on Government checks. (See the sample check on the back of this form.) This information is also stated on beneficiary/annuitant award letters and other documents from the Government agency.
- Payees must keep the Government agency informed of any address changes in order to receive important information about benefits and to remain qualified for payments.

SECTION 1 *(TO BE COMPLETED BY PAYEE)*

A NAME OF PAYEE ***(last, first, middle initial)***

ADDRESS ***(street, route, P.O. Box, APO/FPO)***

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER
AREA CODE

B NAME OF PERSON(S) ENTITLED TO PAYMENT

C CLAIM OR PAYROLL ID NUMBER
Prefix Suffix

D TYPE OF DEPOSITOR ACCOUNT ☐ CHECKING ☐ SAVINGS

E DEPOSITOR ACCOUNT NUMBER

F TYPE OF PAYMENT *(Check only one)*

- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income
- ☐ Railroad Retirement
- ☐ Civil Service Retirement (OPM)
- ☐ VA Compensation or Pension
- ☐ Fed Salary/Mil. Civilian Pay
- ☐ Mil. Active
- ☐ Mil. Retire.
- ☐ Mil. Survivor
- ☐ Other *(specify)*

G THIS BOX FOR ALLOTMENT OF PAYMENT ONLY *(if applicable)*

TYPE AMOUNT

PAYEE/JOINT PAYEE CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am entitled to the payment identified above, and that I have read and understood the back of this form. In signing this form, I authorize my payment to be sent to the financial institution named below to be deposited to the designated account.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

JOINT ACCOUNT HOLDERS CERTIFICATION *(optional)*

I certify that I have read and understood the back of this form, including the SPECIAL NOTICE TO JOINT ACCOUNT HOLDERS.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

SECTION 2 *(TO BE COMPLETED BY PAYEE OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION)*

GOVERNMENT AGENCY NAME

GOVERNMENT AGENCY ADDRESS

SECTION 3 *(TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION)*

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

ROUTING NUMBER CHECK DIGIT

DEPOSITOR ACCOUNT TITLE

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CERTIFICATION

I confirm the identity of the above-named payee(s) and the account number and title As representative of the above-named financial institution, I certify that the financial institution agrees to receive and deposit the payment identified above in accordance with 31 CFR Parts 240, 209, and 210.

PRINT OR TYPE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME | SIGNATURE OF REPRESENTATIVE | TELEPHONE NUMBER | DATE

Financial institutions should refer to the GREEN BOOK for futher instructions.

THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SHOULD MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

NSN 7540-01-058-0224

GOVERNMENT AGENCY COPY

1199-207

Clear Form

BURDEN ESTIMATE STATEMENT

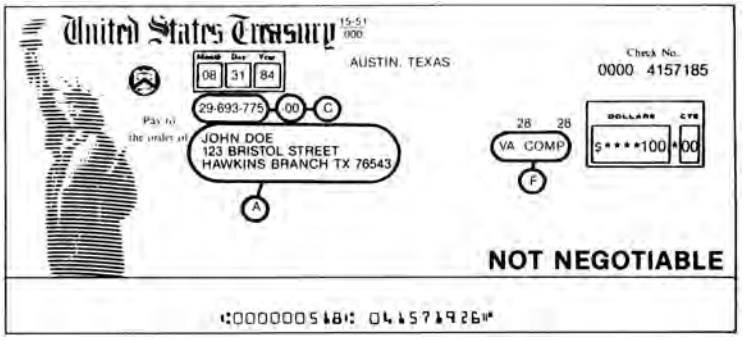
The estimated average burden associated with this collection of information is 10 minutes per respondent or recordkeeper, depending on individual circumstances. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate and suggestions for reducing this burden should be directed to the Financial Management Service, Facilities Management Division, Property & Supply Section, Room B-101, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782 or the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1510-0007), Washington, D.C. 20503.

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

All information on this form, including the individual claim number, is required under 31 USC 3322, 31 CFR 209 and/or 210. The information is confidential and is needed to prove entitlement to payments. The information will be used to process payment data from the Federal agency to the financial institution and/or its agent. Failure to provide the requested information may affect the processing of this form and may delay or prevent the receipt of payments through the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer Program.

INFORMATION FOUND ON CHECKS

Most of the information needed to complete boxes A, C, and F in Section 1 is printed on your government check:



(A) Be sure that payee's name is written exactly as it appears on the check. Be sure current address is shown.

(C) Claim numbers. and suffixes are printed here on checks beneath the date for the type of payment shown here. Check the Green Book for the location of prefixes and suffixes for other types of payments.

(F) Type of payment is printed to the left of the amount.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO JOINT ACCOUNT HOLDERS

Joint account holders should immediately advise both the Government age c and the financial institution of the death of a beneficiary. Funds deposited after the date of death or ineligibility, except for salary payments, are to be returned to the Government agency. The Government agency will then make a determination regarding survivor rights, calculate survivor benefit payments, if any, and begin payments.

CANCELLATION

The agreement represented by this authorization remains in effect until cancelled by the recipient by notice to the Federal agency or by the death or legal incapacity of the recipient. Upon cancellation by the recipient, the recipient should notify the receiving financial institution that he/she is doing so.

The agreement represented by this authorization may be cancelled b the financial. institution by providing the recipient a written notice 30 days in advance of the cancevlation date. The recipient must immediately advise the Federal agency if the authorization is cancelled by the financial institution. The financial institution cannot cancel the authorization by advice to the Government agency.

CHANGING RECEIVING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The payee's Direct Deposit will continue to be received by the selected financial institution until the Government agency is notified by the payee that the payee wishes to change the financial institution receiving the Direct Deposit. To effect this change, the payee will complete a new SF 1199A at the newly selected financial institution. It is recommended that the payee maintain accounts at both financial institutions until the transition is complete, i.e. after the new financial institution receives the payee's Direct Deposit payment.

FALSE STATEMENTS OR FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

Federal law provides a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years or both for presenting a false statement or making a fraudulent claim.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the land
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

Control of Land Requirements for CSP

- To be an eligible applicant for the program, a producer must have written effective control of the land prior to the date the contract is signed. Effective control means possession of the land by ownership, written lease, or other legal agreement and authority to act as decision maker for the day-to-day management of the operation – both at the time of entering into a stewardship contract and for the required period of the contract (5 years). [See Appendix under Subpart 1 - Program Eligibility Requirements (D) and Subpart 3-Agreement (1).]
- Owners are displayed on the FSA forms 156EZ and/or the Producer Farm Data Report form.
- To establish effective control for the required period of the contract, Iowa requires the Control of Land form on the other side of this document. The required information is Farm number(s) with all applicable tracts; the statement of effective control and the specific years under contract; the owner's signature and date. One form per owner is sufficient for those who own multiple farms/tracts. (If control is not granted, leave the farm/tract number(s) off this form.)
- For land that has multiple owners, only 1 owner is required to sign this form. Owner/operators do not need to fill out this form.
- Once properly completed and signed, these forms must be kept by you, the applicant, for the period of the contract (5 years).
- Every CSP contract will be audited at least once within its 5-year period. Auditors will request the Control of Land forms from you. They will verify that farms and tracts are under your effective control, confirm that signatures are valid, and note the date the form was signed – it must be dated before the contract was obligated to show valid effective control. (Auditors use the FSA forms – 156EZ and/or Producer Farm Data Report form for the year of obligation.)
- Without valid effective control, a producer faces penalties that could range from removal of the land from the contract with repayment to termination of the contract for cause with repayment and possible recovery costs of up to 10% of the contract obligation. [Possible penalties are covered in your Appendix under Subpart 8 - Misrepresentation and Scheme or Devise and Subpart 12-Recovery of Costs (B).]
- This Control of Land form is a legal document, but it is not a binding document. If changes in effective control occur, such as changes in ownership or an owner removes you as operator during the contract period, contact your local NRCS office immediately.

Note: Any land that you gain during the contract period cannot be included in an existing CSP contract.

If you have questions, contact your local NRCS staff.

USDA NRCS

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

Conservation Stewardship Program

Iowa 2009

I, _____, as landowner of Farm #/Tract #

_____

_____

_____

do hereby certify that _____ will be operating my land for five years (the length of the Conservation Stewardship Program contract).

For the above described land unit that I own, I provide my assurance that the above Operator will have control of this land and has the authority to act as decision maker for the management and operation of this land for the purpose of satisfying the terms and conditions of a Conservation Stewardship Contract for the proposed contract period.

If there are any owner/operator changes on this farm/tract, I agree to notify in writing, the local NRCS County Service Center office immediately.

Landowner Signature _____

Date _____